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A CHARMING WOMAN.

BY JOHN G. SAXE.

A charming woman, I've heard it said
By her own women quite as much as she:
But all in vain I puzzle my head
To find wherein the charm may be.
Her fame, indeed, is pretty enough,
And her form is quite as good as the best,
Where nature has given the bony stuff,
And a clever milliner all the rest.

Intelligent? Yes, in a certain way;
With the feminine gift of ready speech:
And knows very well what not to say
Whenever the theme transcends her reach.
But turn the topic on things to wear,
From an opera cloak to a *robe de nuit*—
Hats, basques, or bonnets—twill make you stare
To see how fluent the lady can be.

Her laugh is hardly a thing to please:
For, in honest laugh, the throat always start
From a gleesome mood, like a sudden breeze,
And her's is purely a matter of art—
A muscular motion made to show
What nature designed to lie beneath
The finer mouth; but what can she do,
If *that* is ruined to show the teeth?

To her seat in church—a good half mile—
When the day is fine she is sure to go,
Arrayed, of course, in the latest style
Mode de Paris just come to show:
And she puts her hands on the velvet pew
(Can hands so white be in fault of sin?)
And thinks how her prayer book's tint of blue
Must harmonize with her milky skin.

Ah! what shall we say of one who walks
In fields of flowers to choose the worst?
Reads authors of whom she never talks,
And talks of authors she never reads?
She's a charming woman, I've heard it said
By other women as light as she:
But all in vain I puzzle my head
To find wherein the charm may be.
—*Harper for March.*

THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

A NEW YORK EPISODE.

BY EDITH BROWN NELSON.

Author of "Joined for Life," "Hidden From Sight," "Tales of the Period," "My Schoolmate's Story," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER IX.

With a laugh of absolute incredulity and scorn, I rose up at this last assertion of my companion.

"You must be mad," I cried; for the extravagance of her last charge against Dr. Felix inspired me with fresh hope that many more things she had said might prove but slander after all. "There is but one way of satisfying myself and you," I continued, drawing nearer to the door in impatience from the room. "Dr. Felix shall defend himself."

She yielded passively to my impetuosity, with a compassionate smile that stung me more bitterly than any scorn, and in another moment we stood in the library, where it was the custom of our guest invariably to seclude himself during the first part of the day to write his letters, of which he had always a large number on hand.

"You do not ever expect to see that man again, surely?" demanded Mrs. Drummond, when one rapid glance had assured me the one I sought was not there.

"Ah, but he was here not a minute ago, and we will return," cried, triumphantly holding up a pen on which the ink was not yet dry. His favorite chair pushed back; a book we had been reading together only yesterday, open yet, was marked with a fresh flower, one of my favorite tea-roses, as though he had just laid it down, and here at my feet lay his riding whip. I gathered the last up tenderly as though it were a sentient thing. He had been out to ride as usual this morning; here he had been writing afterwards. The calm routine of his habits was just the sedative I was anxious to-day as it had been of the happy yesterday. A guilty mind could not continue thus unshaken and unchanged. A serene conscience goes on reflecting daily its natural images, and oh, how these mute tokens of his quiet, benignant presence unconsciously defended him! The renewed faith in my friend, despite all the terrible evidence brought against him, must have brightened in my eyes as I looked at his traducer. But for a wonder she was not that moment watching me, but intently reading the direction of a letter that lay upon the desk. The name inclined her to me with a contemptuous shrug, in my hand.

"Excellent diplomatist to the last!" she said. "How well these experienced middle-aged adventurers play upon the generous feelings of the young and impressionable!"

I heeded her sarcasm very little. With my heart swelling, my eyes full of tears, I was reading that brief good-bye.

"By this time you know, my poor child, the unhappy circumstances of your mother's death and falsehood and unworthy suspicions. I allow myself yet to be thought the murderer of her I once loved rather than bring indignity upon her memory; but I have determined to quit the sister and the friend of the dead Celestia that they alone shall tell the living Celestia *all* the truth, when and how they please. I could not have done it even for *her* child a few months back; but the rash folly of feelings I dare not encourage, reconciles me to a life-long exile from you. Already you have gathered over your life. You will know some day how hard I have tried to shield it from the reproach and hardships of that false world you were born in. To make it smooth your every hour and, as I was led to believe, to ensure your ultimate happiness, I resorted to deception in order to induce you to marry one of the richest and true among many flatterers. You will certainly be told soon what I now confess, that to secure for you a protector, ardent and devoted enough to shield you from your own mother's fate and the aspersions of the world, I fabricated that letter you supposed to come from your father. The knowledge that he had cast you off, I wished you to imagine came from caprice, not unnatural hatred against the pure, the happy, like you, my darling. I wanted you to be safe before the storm burst, but I could not counsel your marriage for my own sake, so selfish and so jealous of your reputation am I now. Do not write to your father; it would be useless; but trust me yet a little longer, dear, and your right shall be established fully, entirely, to your father's heart and home.

"FELIX FEATHERSTONE."

With an exclamation of joy, grief and indignation combined, I looked up from this medicinal letter to find that my companion had stolen noiselessly from the room. Did she guess the purport of his parting words, or perhaps with the characteristic delicacy slipped away from an unpleasant situation. The letter I held in may hand was half confession, half vindication, that of all this bitter and dark changes that had been brought against him, both as a professional man and a man of honor, but the only crime with which he charged himself, was the fabrication of the letter I had always supposed came from my father. Certainly the expedient to cast the thoughtless, luckless Celestia's bewilderment, and the responsibility of her present and future on poor, unsuspecting Syd, was about the most eccentric proceeding an eccentric character could have devised; but then he "had been led to believe" (of course by Auntie) that I was really attached to the husband they were all so anxious to give me, and only struggling, as my hapless mother had done, against true feelings in order to gain a better worldly position. I read and reread that adieu, and each time the confusion of the perplexity of my position since my birth grew clearer. Repudiated by my father, never indebted to him for one of those comforts and cares I had all my life carelessly accepted as my right by natural inheritance, I learnt the overwhelming truth at last, that I was a worse than orphaned child, an interloper without an inheritance, a dependant on the bounty of Aunt Flavia or—somebody else. Celestia Doolittle, who had held her head so proudly, was nothing but a detected beggar, after all.

* * * * * * *

"It goes to the heart to wake her, but must them, Minette?" were the words that struggled into my sleepy senses as I roused myself with a wondering stare around, to find I was lying on the floor of the library, with my head on Dr. Feather's chair, where I had cried myself to sleep like a child in a vain effort to *think* my way out of all my difficulties past, present and to come. Seeing Auntie, my impulse was to petishly rebuke her for holding the lamp so close to my curls. Discovering Minette's stony inspection my impulse was to slip Dr. Feather's letter in my pocket and rise briskly to my feet.

"What do you want, both of you? and where is Mrs. Drummond, still here?" I asked both questions in a breath, sure from Julie's red eyes some distress impended, and from Minette's grim palor some dread hung over the house. They gave me each an explanation in their characteristic fashion.

"My heart breaks for thee, poor, sweet one," cries Julie, wringing her hands. That good aunt lies dying, and oh, the sad fortune, the good doctor has sailed himself away."

"She means," says Minette, putting her companion aside disdainfully, "that Dr. Felix Feather has gone back to Europe again, as he has often done before, and that my mistress is not so well to-night, and would like you to sit with her, if you are not too tired."

"Gone back to Europe, as he had often done before!" Unconsciously, I was sure, the reserved Minette had given me the information that this last visit to our house was by no means the first, though only on this last occasion had he made himself known to me; but what did that matter, or any other astonishment in store for me, if he was gone for years—perhaps for ever?

I cast one forlorn look around the room so often happily tenanted by both, and promising Minette I would come to her mistress immediately, lingered a few moments behind. As though they had been relics, I laid aside in a locked drawer his pen and the blotting book he had last used. I stooped my long curls very low over the book of old English ballads read by us so lately, and touched my lips to one noble line he had praised before. I shut the book and the rose within it he had last gathered.

"I could not love thee, dear, so much
Loved I not honor more."

That was the line he praised above all others in the poem; that was the lofty sense of honor that ran like a golden thread throughout the life he had sacrificed to save—my mother's memory.

"I should know all soon," he wrote. O noble heart! I felt your truth before, I knew.

The saddest part of this true story is to come, and but for the brightness that it casts on one generous nature, I would not lift the miserable shadows from the lives of others. Yet, why should I hesitate? A hundred instances, similar to the sad episode of another, are found among our fashionable women to-day. There is no soul so selfish as the one that is self sold. There is no passion too mean to rise into a hydra headed monster, when it is nourished by the world and smiled upon by society. Let who keeps count of every flower that dies, and who cares for the blighted impulses for good that perish every day, when a woman's heart becomes a mere pincushion for her interests to mark, and her hand is as loveless as her duty when she extends it for the ring, and with downcast eyes and becoming hesitation she vows to "love, honor and obey," the things for which she sells herself—a set of ruthlessly, three *real* cashmere shawls and an opera-box. Praying both my mother and her daughter, I went up stairs to see my aunt.

"Miss Letty, I did not say to Minette in French parrot tongue, but she is a little nervous to-night, so don't be surprised if she drops me down on you at first," says Minette's demure voice as she noiselessly admitted me.

I drew back startled somewhat by this caution. "Minette, is Auntie worse than you wish me to believe?" I said instantly, looking her keenly in the face. Her cold blue eye blanched for a moment, and I was sufficiently alarmed now to reproach myself that I had not ascertained for myself before now what Mrs. Drummond meant by her careless reference to Aunt Flavia's sickness. Again I asked if that lady had gone home.

"Yes, but she will come with Doctor H——in an hour's time," she said.

I trembled with unexpected terror now. Doctor H——was the most celebrated physician in New York for acute cases of nervous disease, and I remembered what a horror Aunt Flavia had of him in this vicinity only last week at a reception. "He is the kill or cure man, Letty, and only attends those dreadful extreme cases," she had said, and how it had shocked her antipathy then. It struck me as a terrible prescience afterwards. It was a rare thing for my aunt to be sick, still more rare she should send for a doctor. Her health always appeared as well preserved as her complexion. That she should have returned home last night, upset by the agitations which we had both encountered, was not extraordinary; but for no mere case of nerves would Dr. H——attend a summons, and Minette admitted reluctantly that "she had been very sick in the night, but they feared to alarm me, as I was not well myself."

All the *easy* sweetness of the former relationship between my aunt and myself came back to mind as I lifted the lace curtains and looked down remorsefully at the tossing figure on the pillows.

She seemed in a feverish tumult of body and mind together, and was so nervous that, as Minette had said, I was not at first recognized. But for whom did she mistake me, that her eyes opened so horribly as they fixed upon my face?

I was bending over her, shocked at the change one night had made in her appearance. The wrinkles withered in spite of her rouge and false hair, the beautiful teeth and the beaming smile dismissed, with the world she worshipped, for the night, was this fretful, querulous, popular chaperone? Hidden cares and jealously, preserved secrets of pain, mental and physical, contracted the brows I had never seen drawn together otherwise than smiling, and twitched the pale lips no longer blooming with unreal youthfulness. For the first time I saw a weary, aged woman, gasping at the breath of the world upon her guilty soul, instead of its most eager votary.

"Good-night to bed, you miserable creature," she suddenly exclaimed, starting up, leaning on her elbow, and regarding me with a fantastic smile. "If Horace finds you wandering about in this way, he will be sure to suspect you have something on your mind. When I gave up Fritz, did I act so, Celesia? No, no, no, I danced, I sang when I wanted to cry, and so you, Go back to bed, I say, or to the opera, the opera, the opera." Drowsily she sank back, repenting the last words she had ever said before I could feel relief at the change she rose again upon her pillow, looking me anxiously in the face.

"Did you take that stuff the doctor said? Hush. Don't, for God's sake, don't rave so. I did it for the best, and so did Matilda. You would not have those diamonds if you were not my child, Letty, how they sparkle. Pretty, pretty diamonds, like—like silly tears."

She was relapsing again into that unnatural stupor that I did not understand, and horrified as I was by the mysterious workings of an uneasy conscience that was betrayed in her incoherent talk, I was yet more scared by the conviction that her thoughts were wandering. Minette, to my unutterable relief, came at this juncture to my side, and after attentively regarding me in silence for some moments, the strange figure of her mistress, bade me fear nothing for now, for "she was getting over it."

"Getting over what?" I inquired. "Minette, don't you know that a sick room too or is it the flowers on the toilet that smell so strong?"

The close, heavy air of the room, especially around the bed, had seemed to me from the first impregnated with a disagreeable odor, but I had been so absorbed in watching my aunt that I had not been so aware of it till now.

As I spoke Minette, with a quick, almost imperceptible movement, stooped over her mistress, but not so rapidly that I did not see she had wrested something from her hand, which she threw into the fire over her shoulder the next moment, evidently anxious I should not see. Auntie revived wonderfully a few moments upon this, and I forgot the trifling circumstance. Upon what slight hinges hang the most terrible risks of our lives!

Minette guarded the secret of her mistress with a jealous fidelity that destroyed her at last.

"Celestia," spoke Auntie, in quite her own familiar tones, only a little weaker, "I am glad you feel able to talk to me to-night, for I have much to say to you. Have you been here since I went to sleep?"

Obeying a significant sign from Minette, I answered that I had, and further that I was afraid, however much I wished to talk, she ought not to exert herself.

"I shall," she cried, quite blearily. And sending Minette out of the room to bring her some chocolate, she put her hands wildly in both hers, so tremulous and burning, and declared without further preparation that before she slept she must tell that to me which no one could tell so well.

"It comes over me to-night that I *must* speak, Letty, and that it has all been a miserable mistake to keeping silence so long. You know all from Matilda. Dreadful will tell, and she would kill me if she thought after our quarrel this morning I revealed anything else. Don't tremble so, Letty, I say."

I was not trembling. Alas! poor auntie, *I* had not shuddered beneath the dread of a sad, sad family secret for years.

"If it were not right for the sake of one self-banished now for the sake of us all, I would beg you to be silent for ever to me Auntie." I cried, struggling to keep calm. "That I *dare* not do," and she groaned, oh, how remorsefully!

"That unfortunate man has suffered enough. I told him that if he went away, never to see me in life again, I would do him justice, and I will to you, at least. In your eyes, child, he ought to rank first, for to him you owe everything, from the first hour you were discovered. He should have been ours at his days, that the child of the woman who ruined him should gratify every whim, like her mother before her. But I cannot bear your agitation or my own, to-night, at last all that remains untold. I feel that I am unequal to it, and fortunately I have prepared to-day a letter to your father, which you are to read first, and be the bearer to him afterwards."

She put her hand under her pillow and drew forth a pocket-book, which she hurriedly bade me conceal in my dress, as no one knew when Matilda might come in.

"How frightened you are of that artful woman," I said, indignant for her sake, for I did not then conceive the power a strong and subtle intellect invariably exercises over a weaker.

"I have reason to be," she responded, with a dreary sigh. "But for her representations that the exposure would ruin us all, and your prospects as well, Dr. Feather's reputation, both as a doctor and man of honor, would have been long since cleared. Hush! here they come, and that horrid doctor with them. I don't need him, but I was never better in my life, but it is just a notion of mine to see what the kill or cure man will say about a nervous head-ache."

I felt very anxious about her, the more so as I suspected there was deeper cause for the doctor's presence than she would confess, but she stopped my eager entreaties to be allowed to wait and hear his opinion with a peremptory denial.

"If you wish to make me really sick, you will remain there, perched on my pillow, all night, staring at me with your large eyes," she said, pettishly, pushing me away with one weak hand. "Any one would suppose I was going to die to-morrow, instead of being able to take you to the concert. Remember, Letty, whatever we feel at home, we must cover up the wound abroad. We shall never see Dr. Feather again. I know the value of his promises of old to doubt but that he will keep the last he made me yesterday, that never during my life would he return to America, and I feel so strong there is small chance for him I fear."

Like lead this information fell upon my heart, but as yet ignorant of the contents of the letter I held in my hand, I could say nothing. I was at the door when her voice, strangely wild and weak, recalled me hastily.

"Letty, run, run for Minette; or stay, give me the pills—the pills, for God's sake!"

She had fallen on the pillow with a great and terrible cry—next moment dead.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE NEW UNITED STATES SENATE.

Complete List of Its Members.

The election of a United States Senator by the Legislature of Minnesota, completes the list of members of the Senate of the Forty-fourth Congress, with the exception of one disputed seat from Louisiana, claimed by Mr. Pinchback. The complete list is given below, the names of Republicans being printed in roman, Democrats in italics, and all others, including Liberal Republicans, Independent Republicans and Anti-Monopolists, in small capitals:

SENATE.

Term ends.	ALABAMA.	Term ends.	MISSOURI.
1877.	*Geo. Goldthwaite,*	1879.	*Lewis V. Bogy,*
1879.	Geo. E. Spencer.	1881.	*Francis M. Cockrell*
	ARKANSAS.		NEBRASKA.
1877.	Powell Clayton.	1876.	Phm W. Hitchcock
1879.	Stephen Dorsey.	1881.	Algernon S. Paddock.
	CALIFORNIA.		NEVADA.
1879.	Aaron A. Sargent.	1879.	John P. Jones.
1881.	*Newton Booth.*	1881.	William Sharon.
	CONNECTICUT.		NEW HAMPSHIRE.
1879.	Orris S. Ferry.	1877.	Aaron H. Cragin.
1881.	*William W. Eaton.*	1876.	B. Wadleigh.
	DELAWARE.		NEW JERSEY.
1877.	*Eli Saulsbury.*	1877.	F. T. Frelinghuysen
1881.	*Thos. F. Bayard.*	1881.	*Theo. F. Randolph.*
	FLORIDA.		NEW YORK.
1879.	Simon B. Conover.	1879.	Roscoe Conkling.
1881.	*Charles W. Jones.*	1881.	*Francis Kernan.*
	GEORGIA.		NORTH CAROLINA.
1877.	*Thos. M. Norwood.*	1877.	*Matt. W. Ransom.*
1879.	*J. Jos B. Gordon.*	1879.	*A. S. Merrimon.*
	ILLINOIS.		OHIO.
1877.	John A. Logan.	1879.	John Sherman.
1879.	Richd. J. Oglesby.	1881.	*Allen G. Thurman*
	INDIANA.		OREGON.
1879.	Oliver P. Morton.	1879.	John H. Mitchell.
1881.	*Jos. E. McDonald.*	1877.	*James K. Kelly.*
	IOWA.	1879.	John H. Mitchell.
1877.	George G. Wright.		PENNSYLVANIA.
1879.	Wm. B. Allison.	1881.	Simon Cameron.
	KANSAS.	1881.	*Wm. A. Wallace.*
1877.	James M. Harvey.		RHODE ISLAND.
1879.	John J. Ingalls.	1877.	Henry B. Anthony.
	KENTUCKY.	1881.	A. Burnside.
1877.	*John W. Stevenson.*		SOUTH CAROLINA.
1879.	*Thos. C. McCreery.*	1877.	Thos. J. Robertson.
	LOUISIANA.	1879.	Jno. J. Patterson.
1877.	J. Rodman West.		TENNESSEE.
1879.	A vacancy.	1877.	*Henry Cooper.*
	MAINE.	1881.	*Andrew Johnson.*
1879.	Lot M. Morrill.		TEXAS.
1881.	Hannibal Hamlin.	1877.	M. C. Hamilton.
	MARYLAND.	1881.	*Samuel B. Maxey.*
1879.	*George R. Dennis.*		VERMONT.
1881.	*W. P. Whyte.*	1879.	Justin S. Morrill.
	MASSACHUSETTS.	1881.	G. F. Edmunds.
1877.	G. S. Boutwell.		VIRGINIA.
1881.	Henry L. Dawes.	1877.	*J. W. Johnston.*
	MICHIGAN.	1881.	*R. E. Withers.*
1877.	Thomas W. Ferry.		WEST VIRGINIA.
1881.	I. P. Christiancy.	1877.	*Henry G. Davis.*
	MINNESOTA.	1881.	*Allen T. Caperton.*
1877.	Wm. Windom.		WISCONSIN.
1881.	S. J. R. McMillan.	1877.	Timothy O. Howe.
	MISSISSIPPI.	1881.	Angus Cameron.
1877.	James L. Alcorn.		
1881.	Blanch K. Bruce.		

SUMMARY.

	Forty-third Congress.	Forty-fourth Congress.
Republicans	49	51
Democrats	20	28
Independents	4	4
Vacancy	1	

MARRIAGES AND BIRTHS.

Interesting Figures from the Office of the Board of Health.

The annual report of the Board of Health of Pittsburgh, for 1874, soon to be printed, contains statistics of much interest. Tabular statements of marriages, births and deaths are given in detail. The mortuary statements have been fully published from time to time. The total number of deaths for the year was 3,381, while the births were 5,084. The marriages were 1,533, or less than half the number of deaths. In all these the numbers were less than in 1873.

MARRIAGES.

The marriages were during the months as follows:

First quarter, ending March 31	338
Second quarter, ending June 30	469
Third quarter, ending September 30	331
Fourth quarter, ending December 31	395

The nativity of the contracting parties were:

United States, grooms, 761; brides, 916. Foreign, grooms, 772; brides, 617.

The ages of the persons were as follows:

	Grooms.	Brides.
15 to 20 years	25	478
20 to 25 years	641	635
25 to 30 years	482	274
30 to 35 years	196	91
35 to 40 years	92	36
40 to 45 years	35	37
50 to 55 years	12	5
55 to 60 years	3	3
60 to 65 years	8	1
65 to 70 years	1	1
70 to 75 years	2	0
Not given	2	0

Of the total number of ceremonies, 491 were solemnized in the Catholic church, nearly twice as many as in any one of the Protestant faith.

THE BIRTHS

were as follows during the quarters of the year:

First quarter, ending March 31	1,276
Second quarter, ending June 30	1,195
Third quarter, ending September 30	1,310
Fourth quarter, ending December 31	1,313

The births averaged 424 a month, 98 a week and 14 a day.

The following table shows the number of births in each ward of the city during the year:

WARDS.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Per cent.
First	62	49	111	2.18
Second	41	42	83	1.67
Third	39	41	77	1.51
Fourth	39	38	77	1.51
Fifth	87	80	170	3.34
Sixth	116	282	398	7.83
Seventh	59	87	146	2.87
Eighth	88	87	175	3.44
Ninth	71	190	261	5.13
Tenth	56	41	97	1.91
Eleventh	171	130	301	5.92
Twelfth	171	130	301	6.43
Thirteenth	63	57	120	2.36
Fourteenth	107	91	198	3.89
Fifteenth	76	103	179	3.53
Sixteenth	142	126	268	5.29
Seventeenth	135	153	288	5.68
Eighteenth	28	28	56	1.10
Nineteenth	60	44	104	2.10
Twentieth	53	43	96	1.89
Twenty-first	99	83	178	3.50
Twenty-second	18	8	26	.52
Twenty-third	37	27	64	1.26
Twenty-fourth	59	54	113	2.22
Twenty-fifth	70	63	139	2.73
Twenty-sixth	148	126	274	5.40
Twenty-seventh	70	53	123	2.42
Twenty-eighth	100	87	187	3.68
Twenty-ninth	78	75	153	3.01
Thirtieth	64	53	117	2.30
Thirty-first	94	87	181	3.60
Thirty-second	58	66	124	2.44
Thirty-third	9	18	27	.54
Thirty-fourth	38	43	81	1.60
Thirty-fifth	29	23	52	1.02
Thirty-sixth	52	51	103	2.03
Thirty-seventh	44	31	75	1.55
Total	2,665	2,419	5,084	

Of the above thirty-one were in public institutions.

GAS EXPLOSION.

A Woman Badly Burned.

About three o'clock on Saturday morning an explosion of gas occurred at the residence of Mrs. Rogers, No. 30 Congress street, Seventh ward, which resulted in the serious injury of the lady named. On the evening previous it was discovered that the gas was leaking in the cellar, and word was sent to the office of the old company. An employee was sent to the house and found that the leak was from the supply pipe. He put some soap around the joints and left the house, saying that that would do until the street could be opened and the pipe repaired. At the time stated Saturday morning, Mrs. Rogers awakening started to the kitchen to ascertain the time. When half way down the basement stairs a terrific explosion occurred. Mrs. Rogers was badly burned about the feet and ankles, and her hair was also burned. The force of the explosion overturned the stove in the kitchen, bulged the walls, tore the door from its hinges and also blew pannels out of the door in the hallway on the main floor. The gas also set fire to the fuel in the vault, and an alarm of fire was given. The firemen responded promptly, and succeeded in preventing the flames from communicating to the house. Much complaint is made against the gas company for neglect.

RIOT ON THE ICE.

Two Men Shot, and Others Wounded with Stones and Clubs.

Sunday afternoon, between four and five o'clock, a riot occurred on the Allegheny river, a short distance below the Mechanic street bridge. The participants were men and boys from Pittsburgh and Allegheny, and the affair grew out of a fight between two boys. At first stones and clubs were used, and finally pistols were brought into use, and there was a brisk, indiscriminate fusilade. A man named Joseph Geyer, who keeps a saloon at the corner of Second and James streets, Allegheny, who was on the bridge while the riot was in progress, received a bullet in his shoulder. Another man, whose name we did not ascertain, was struck and slightly wounded in the leg by a spent ball. Many others were wounded with stones and clubs. A number of the Allegheny police interfered and stopped the riot. No arrests were made.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 18, 1875.

The following bills were read in place:

Mr. Maclay—Limiting to one year the time for the payment of notes given for patent rights.

Mr. Watson—Providing for making and repairing township roads; also to secure stricter accountability of public officers; also relative to school taxes and debts for school purposes.

Mr. Colihan—Limiting the amount of school tax.

The following bills were reported favorably:

Relative to judicial sales and mortgage liens.

Extending the General Corporation act to improvement companies.

The following were reported negatively:

Abridging the time for killing quail.

Relative to the taxation of banks and savings institutions.

Mr. Strang offered a joint rule that the unfinished business of this session shall not go over to the next. Laid over.

The following were passed finally and sent to the House:

An act to authorize change of venue in criminal cases.

An act to authorize the judges of the several courts throughout the Commonwealth to fix the number of regular terms of said several courts, and the times for holding the same, the time for summoning the grand jury, and for the return of inquisitions, aldermen and justices of the peace to the same.

A supplement to an act entitled an act relative to courts in this Commonwealth, approved May 1, A. D., 1852.

An act to regulate the practice of medicine, surgery and obstetrics in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This bill was fully discussed, and the vote stood: yeas 37, nays 3.

The bill to provide for the incorporation and regulation of insurance companies, passed second reading.

The bill to permit defendants to testify in criminal cases was under discussion at the hour of adjournment. At the afternoon session the debate was continued till six o'clock, when the Senate adjourned without reaching a vote. Messrs Wallace, Winslow, Strang and Playford spoke against, and Messrs. Newmyer, Stanton, Jones, Albright and Ermentrout for the bill.

HOUSE.

The following bills passed finally:

Act repealing the proviso in section 1 of last year's law relating to the maintenance of soldiers' orphans.

Senate supplement to the law of 1874 in relation to limited partnerships.

The following passed second reading:

Relative to days of grace on negotiable paper.

Defining the offense of kidnapping.

Declaring the trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church the legal successors of the Trustees of the Presbyterian House, and authorizing the latter corporation to transfer the property held to the former.

Supplement authorizing writs of *quo warranto* in certain cases.

Providing for the surrender of the franchises of turnpike or plank road companies upon portions of their roads within borough or city limits.

Supplement to confer upon courts the power to annex the land, or parts thereof, of persons resident in one district to another district of the same county.

Supplement to the act dividing cities into three classes. It was made to extend to cities of the third class which, by a two-thirds vote of councils, adopted the system.

The supplement to the act of April, 1874, legalizing the annexing of outlying school districts, was amended to apply to cities of the third class.

Mr. Long presented a petition of 500 coopers; also memorials from the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, Builders' Association, and resolutions of the Allegheny Councils favoring the Free Pipe Line bill.

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 19, 1875.

The following bills were reported favorably from committees:

Authorizing cities to levy one per cent. on fire insurance premiums for fire departments.

Substituting poll tax for personal tax.

Relative to the payment of costs in cases of felony.

For the removal of county seats.

Amending the third section of the Legal holiday act.

The supplement to the act creating the office of Secretary of Internal Affairs was reported negative by the House.

The following were read in place:

Mr. Stanton—Relating to landlords and tenants of houses at coal mines.

Mr. Darlington—Relating to city and county offices from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M.

Mr. Stanton—For the adjustment of disputes between operators and operatives at mines in certain cases.

Mr. Ermentrout—Supplement to the Health act.

Mr. Chalfant—To prevent fraud on or by hotel or boarding house keepers.

Mr. Bussey—Regulating the sale and manufacture of patent medicines.

Mr. Newmyer—For the more equal assessment of taxes in cities of the second class.

The following passed finally:

Joint resolution providing for the printing of the report of the Auditor-General on railroads.

An Act declaratory of the true intent of section sixty-six of the act to consolidate, revise and amend the penal laws of this Commonwealth, approved May 31, A. D. 1860.

An Act enabling assignees, for the benefit of creditors, to make sales of real estate encumbered by liens.

An act to repeal an act creating a separate highway department in the second ward of the city of Philadelphia, and supplement thereto, and providing for the settlement and adjustment of the account of the superintendent of highways of said ward, and the disposition of the uncollected list of taxes assessed under the said acts of Assembly; and also providing for the disposition of property in the hands of the said superintendents.

An act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of insurance companies, passed second reading.

The joint resolution authorizing the Clerk of the Senate to procure three copies of Purdon's Digest for the use of the Senate, was postponed over the present.

The bill authorizing the town council in incorporated boroughs to vacate streets, lanes and alleys, subject to appeal to the Court of Quarter Sessions, and relating to and authorizing changes of venue in civil causes, were amended and laid over.

The bill to permit defendants to testify in criminal cases was made the special order for Wednesday next.

The Senate adjourned till Monday night.

CONFIRMATION OF NOTARIES.

The Senate to-day confirmed the following notaries public:

Mark Burke, Daniel Wenke, of Birmingham; Wm. Wilson, of Apollo; G. S. Crosby, of Parker City; Geo. P. Griffiths, of Erie.

HOUSE.

James L. Marshall was sworn as Representative from the Third district of Philadelphia, in place of Mr. Fagan, deceased.

A large number of petitions were presented relating to the Pipe law, for and against the repeal of the Local Option law and favoring an appropriation for a State homeopathic insane hospital.

An ineffectual attempt was made to get up, out of order, the resolution for a committee to investigate the affairs of the State Treasury.

The motion to recommit the Local Option Repeal bill to the Judiciary Local Committee and the bill itself, were made to special order for Wednesday evening next—yeas 122, nays 62.

A resolution for an adjournment over Washington's birthday until Tuesday evening, was lost—yeas 71, nays 94.

The General Appropriation bill was reported from committee.

The House adjourned till Monday evening.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

SENATE.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 22, 1875.

Mr. Anderson, of Crawford offered, resolutions instructing the Congressmen from this State to vote for the aid of the Texas Pacific Railroad. Passed—26 to 6.

FIRST READING.

The following bills were read the first time:

An act authorizing certain cities in this Commonwealth to regulate sewer charges by ordinance of Council.

An act to create a State Board of Health for the protection of life and health and to prevent the spread of diseases in this Commonwealth.

A supplement to an act entitled "An act to authorize the appointment of stenographers in the several courts of this Commonwealth, prescribing their duties and fixing their compensation," approved May 15, A. D. 1874.

An act to authorize State banks to surrender their charters for the purpose of organizing national banks under the provisions of the several acts of Congress.

An act relative to the punishment of persons writing threatening letters.

An act relating to bail in criminal cases taken by mayors, deputy mayors, aldermen and justices of the peace, requiring them to record in the information the residence of the person or persons taken as bail, and the location and extent of their property.

An act to exempt pianos leased or hired from levy or sale on execution or distress for rent.

An act authorizing president judges to appoint a reporter and fixing his compensation.

An act to protect the children of this Commonwealth in their rights to acquire useful trades.

An act relative to the pavement of streets in cities, and providing the manner of payment therefor.

Joint resolution to provide for the payment of B. F. Burroughs, engineer, and Daniel Best, fireman, for services rendered from October first to December first, A. D. 1874, under the direction of the Chief Clerk.

An act in relation to the settlement of the claims of the State for unpaid purchase money in certain lands in the county of Union.

An act relating to judicial sales and the preservation of the lien of mortgages.

An act to set apart in the city of Philadelphia a majority of the sum received for tavern licenses to aid in the support of the House of Correction.

A supplement to an act entitled "An act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations," approved April 29, A. D. 1874, applying the benefits of said act to improvement companies and regulating the same.

An act, entitled "A supplement to the act, entitled 'An act regulating the election of Secretary of Internal Affairs, defining his duties and fixing his salary,' approved May 11, A. D. 1874."

An act authorizing the cities of this Commonwealth to levy and collect a tax not exceeding one per cent. upon premiums received by fire insurance companies incorporated by this Commonwealth, and doing business in said cities for the support of the paid fire department of said city.

An act in relation to taxes on trades, professions and occupations substituting a poll tax in lieu thereof.

An act to repeal an act approved April 13, A. D. 1869, entitled "An act to repeal an act approved April 12, A. D. 1866, entitled 'An act relative to the publication of legal advertising in the county of Bedford.'"

An act to repeal an act entitled "An act authorizing the citizens of Charlestown township, Chester county, to change the method of mending and improving the roads and building bridges in said township," approved February 19, A. D. 1874.

An act to provide a mode for the removal of county seats, sale of the old county buildings, and the location of new ones.

A supplement to an act entitled "An act relating to payment of costs in cases of felony," approved May 11, A. D. 1858, providing for the payment of costs by the county in certain cases and authorizing said county to collect the same from the party convicted.

An act amending the third section of an act defining what shall constitute legal holidays, approved April 2, 1873.

An act providing for the improvement

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 23, 1875.

The following bills were read in place:

Mr. Newmyer—Relative to gauging domestic spirits.

Mr. Horter—Supplement to the act regulating the rights of parents and children.

Mr. Cooper—Authorizing corporations to change the par value of their stock.

Mr. McNeill—Supplement to the acts relative to the stay of execution.

Mr. Davis—Authorizing common carriers to sell goods on which they have a lien.

Mr. Engle—Extending the Railroad act of 1861 to passenger railways.

Mr. Bussey—Regulating transcripts from justices' dockets.

Mr. Lamoe—Fixing the time for the organization of councils in cities.

Mr. Herr—To repeal the act relative to notes given for patent rights.

Mr. Jones—Relative to opinions by a divided court; also, authorizing courts to regulate affidavits of defense.

Mr. Yerkes—For a new insane hospital for the Eastern counties.

Mr. Wood—Providing for the withdrawal of boroughs consolidated with cities of the second class.

Mr. Chalfant—To amend the General Corporation act.

Mr. Wood offered a resolution condemning aid to the Pacific Railroad. Referred—yeas 30, nays 15.

The following passed finally:

An act authorizing the town council in incorporated boroughs to vacate streets, lanes and alleys, subject to appeal to the Court of Quarter Sessions.

An act relating to and authorizing changes of venue in civil causes.

A supplement to an act entitled "An act dividing the cities of this State into three classes; regulating the passage of ordinances; providing for contracts for supplies and work for said cities; authorizing the increase of indebtedness and the creation of a sinking fund to redeem the same; defining and punishing certain offences in all of said cities, and providing for the incorporation and government of cities of the third class," approved May 23, A. D. 1874, to extend the provisions of said act to cities of the third class embracing within their territory more than one school district, and to provide for the consolidation of school districts.

An act relating to the commencement of the term of office of judges learned in the law, being a supplement to the act of the 30th day of April, A. D. 1874, entitled an act fixing the time when the term of office of the Judges of the Supreme Court and other judges learned in the law shall commence.

The bill to provide for the refunding and redemption of the existing indebtedness of counties, cities, boroughs, townships, school districts or other municipalities or incorporated districts evidenced by bonds or certificates issued prior to the 20th day of April, A. D. 1874, was amended and laid over.

The following passed second reading:

An act to prevent the unlawful taking and using of the horse, carriage or other property of another and to punish the same, in cases where such taking and using does not amount to the crime of larceny.

An act to enable guardians and others to bind minors out of the State.

An act to authorize the Governor to appoint a commission of National Guard officers to co-operate with the Centennial Commission, for the purpose of securing from other States of the Union a representation of their recognized military organizations at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876.

An act for promoting the qualifications of stationary engineers and securing the safety of persons employed in and about the anthracite coal mines of Pennsylvania.

The joint resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, was amended by striking out the paragraph abolishing associate judges not learned in the law—yeas 25, nays 22,—and passed second reading.

The bill for the prevention of horses, cattle, sheep or swine running at large in the various townships of the Commonwealth, was amended by adding "goats" to the title and bill, after "sheep," and then passed second reading.

The bill for the incorporation and regulation of banks of discount and deposit, was passed down to section 30, which forbids banks to pay interest on deposits A long debate ensued and the section was agreed to—yeas 32, nays 13—and the bill passed second reading.

The bill to secure to children the benefits of common schools, was recommitted to the Committee on Education.

The bill declaring promissory notes containing a confession of judgment or a warrant of attorney to confess judgment negotiable, was postponed indefinitely.

The supplement to an act, entitled "An act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations," approved April 29, A. D. 1874, and to extend the provisions of said act to and embrace within the provisions of the same, transportation of oil and natural gas by means of pipe lines, was called up and the first section read.

Mr. Strang moved to recommit the bill to the Finance Committee, instructing them to inquire how the passage of the bill would affect the finances of the State.

After considerable debate the motion was agreed to.

Yeas—Messrs. Anderson, of Crawford, Bussey, Calihan, Cooper, Cronise, Cutler, Davis, Dill, Drinkel, Heilman, Horter, Jackson, Jones, Lamon, Lemon, Maciay, McClellan, Nagle, Rockwell, Rowland, Strang, Wareham, Warfel, Winslow, Yerkes, Yeates—26.

Nays—Messrs. Anderson, of Allegheny, Bechtel, Chalfant, Clark, Ermentrout, McAninley, McCallum, Newmyer, Newswanger, Payne, Playford, Roebuck, Rutan, Shimer, Stanton, Watson, Wood, Yutzy—19.

This is equivalent to the defeat of the bill.

HOUSE.

The morning session was nearly all occupied with reading and correcting the journal of last night's proceedings. The amendment offered by Mr. Morgan, of Lawrence, was not properly stated in the manuscript sent to the clerk, hence, after debate the journal was corrected to read: "The investigation should begin with and include the administration of Wm. V. McGrath."

The following bills passed finally: Act removing disabilities prohibiting aliens from purchasing, holding and transmitting real estate.

Providing a remedy for irregularity in sealing up jury wheels, and in the custody thereof.

Directing the manner in which Allegheny county common pleas judges shall designate and assign duties to the associate judges.

Supplement to the act dividing cities into three classes applying sections or its provisions to such cities of the third class as by a two-thirds vote of councils shall accept the same.

Mr. Thornton reported favorably, from the Iron and Coal Committee, the bill to repeal the tax on bituminous coal.

Mr. Long introduced a bill relating to damages to private property in opening streets and alleys in cities.

The bill for establishing new counties is now before the House, under the special morning session, in the Committee of the Whole.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

SENATE.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 24, 1875.

The following bills were read in place:

Mr. Chalfant—For the better protection of fish.

Mr. Shimer—Relative to bonus on renewed charters.

Mr. Strang—To place inmates of insane hospitals under the protection of law.

Mr. Dill—Authorizing stockholders of bridge companies to vote each share of stock at elections.

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny—Repealing the act regulating the election of school directors by precincts in Pittsburgh.

The following were killed on third reading:

An act to prevent the unlawful taking and using of the horse, carriage or other property of another and to punish the same, in cases where such taking and using does not amount to the crime of larceny.

An act to enable guardians and others to bind minors out of the State.

The bill to provide for the refunding and redemption of the existing indebtedness of counties, cities, boroughs, townships, school districts or other municipalities or incorporated districts evidenced by bonds or certificates issued prior to the 20th day of April, A. D. 1874, was further amended and laid over.

The joint resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth was called up and Mr. Jones moved to add a new amendment reducing the Senate to thirty-three and the House to one hundred members. After a vigorous debate the motion was lost—yeas 12, nays 34. The bill then passed finally—yeas 37, nays 5.

An act for the incorporation and regulation of banks of discount and deposit. Passed finally.

At the afternoon session the bill to permit defendants to testify in criminal cases came up on third reading.

Mr. Wallace moved to recommit the bill, with instructions to report a new bill repealing all the present laws allowing defendants to testify in criminal cases.

Mr. Yerkes moved to amend so as to include all laws allowing defendants to testify in civil cases.

Mr. Rutan raised the point of order that this was instructing the committee to do what the Senate would not do, namely, to change the original purpose of the bill.

The Chair sustained the point of order.

Mr. Wallace then moved to recommit. Lost—yeas 17, nays 28.

The bill then passed finally—yeas 29, nays 18.

NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED.

The following nominations were confirmed: A. J. Marshall, Justice of the Peace, Darlington township, Beaver county. Notaries—A. J. Treacy, Pittsburgh; M. N. Stouffer, Westmoreland; William Nesbitt, Altoona; S. K. Clarke, Clarion; R. Gallaway, Jr., Connellsville.

HOUSE.

The bill to provide for the removal of county seats was postponed for the present.

The following passed first reading:

An act to repeal an act, entitled "An act to regulate the rates of fare on certain passenger railroads in the county of Allegheny," approved March 1, 1867.

An act to confer jurisdiction on Courts of Common Pleas in cases of *mandamus*.

An act to consolidate existing tax laws.

The General Appropriation bill.

The joint resolution to give Purdon's Digest to every member was passed finally on one reading, under the ruling of the Speaker and sent to the Senate, where it was referred. Being, in fact, a bill, it should have been read three several times.

At the afternoon session Mr. Lusk introduced a bill inforcing the penalties for the illegal sale of liquors on Sunday, and punishing those obtaining the same. It makes the drinking of liquor a misdemeanor.

A resolution was passed authorizing the appointment of a committee of nine to investigate the alleged ill-treatment of inmates of the Philadelphia House of Refuge.

The remainder of the session was consumed in wrangling over the new county bill, without result.

LOCAL OPTION REPEAL.

A special session of the House was held this evening, to consider the bill repealing the Local Option law, and was attended by a large and excited crowd of spectators. The repeal men held a caucus at six o'clock to arrange a programme. The previous question was called twice. The motion to recommit was lost—yeas 60, nays 129. An amendment offered by Mr. Graham, that the act shall not take effect in counties which voted against license, until March, 1876, was voted down—yeas 90, nays 95.

The bill then passed first reading—yeas 128, nays 56.

Adjourned at a quarter past ten.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, February 22, 1875.

For the first time since 1862 the two Houses are holding regular sessions on Washington's birthday. Prior to that time, sessions were regularly held on that day; but since then the recurrence of the holiday has been uniformly seized upon as a pretext for an adjournment over for several days. This session is bound to be so short that neither House can afford to lose a day.

The House Committee on Appropriations reported the Appropriation bill on Friday, and under the rules it has precedence to all other bills. It will be the fault of its friends if it does not get through next week. This bill, it is to be understood, is only for the general expenses of the government, schools and judiciary. The appropriations to institutions are made in separate bills.

The House met, its snarl on the Local Option bill in the only practicable way, by making the bill and the pending motions upon it the special order for Wednesday night next. The astute parliamentarians of the House never saw this open gate, and it was finally adopted on the suggestion of an outsider. The bill will, after the motion to recommit has been disposed of, as I presume it will be, by defeating it, come up on first reading that night. If they do not get through with it, at that time, it will come up again when bills on first reading are again in order.

The session in the two Houses, to-night, has been devoted mainly to the preparation of business for future action. There are still some legislative sharks in the House who think the two Houses *cannot* adjourn on the 18th prox.; but the wish, with them, is father to the thought. The House must either get along with its work, or take the responsibility of whatever is left undone when the hour of final adjournment arrives.

The Academy of Sciences, in Philadelphia, having undertaken to build a large and magnificent building, in the manner of the unwise man of old, without sitting down to count the cost beforehand, and finding itself, now that the building is half up, some $300,000 short, coolly proposes to the Legislature that the State should make good the deficiency! The State is the oyster they are all bound to open. Philadelphia wants $200,000 for the Homeopathic University; $200,000 for the Pennsylvania Institution; $100,000 (extra) for the Institute for the Blind; $300,000 for the Academy of Sciences; $50,000 for the Nautical School, and one-half of the licenses for the House of Correction ($150,000), to say nothing of the Centennial. This list foots up a million, and is but a beginning. I hardly think, however, that the Legislature, with but $5,000,000 of surplus altogether, of which sum the common schools are to get $1,000,000, the public debt and interest $2,000,000, and the expenses of the government over $1,000,000, will get $1,000,000 to one city, either for extra charitable or educational purposes.

I hear, to-day, that the present distinguished City Treasurer of Philadelphia, Peter A. B. Widener, will be a candidate for the Republican nomination for State Treasurer. He will probably receive the support of the delegation from that city.

The Appropriation bill, as reported to the House, contains an item giving $300 each to the "chaplains" of the Senate and House. As there is no such officer as chaplain known to the laws of this State, this is an appropriation without previous provision of law, which is specially forbidden by the Constitution. This item being the bulwark of the Constitution, this lapse into the old custom, in the very teeth of its stringent provision, is a sorry comment upon the watchfulness of the guardians of our fundamental law. SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 23, 1875.

The House seems to grow worse instead of better. Last night it wasted a session running into eleven o'clock, in an abortive effort to get up an investigation into the State Treasury, and to-day it wasted nearly the entire morning session in a wrangle over the journal, which, either designedly or accidentally, was made up falsely. The journal was finally got right, and the House then distinguished itself by passing a Senate and a House bill, finally, which is about all it has to show for its three daily sessions.

Let us go back to the beginning, in order to get at the facts of the case, and explain what bothered the House last night and to-day, and how it came to get itself head over ears in another muddle. On January 7th, Mr. Smith, of Berks, offered a preamble and resolutions looking to the appointment of a committee to investigate the State Treasury back to Kemble's time. When these resolutions were taken up, an amendment was offered from the Republican side, to begin with and include the Democratic administration of McGrath.

Pending this amendment, the whole subject was referred to the Judiciary Committee, to inquire into the power of the House to institute such investigations. After sleeping in that committee several weeks, the subject was revived, two weeks since, by a report from the committee that the House could order the investigation, but could not force parties to testify, nor could it employ a clerk or incur any expense. All these things could be done by a joint committee of the two Houses, acting under authority of law, but not by the committee of one House alone. The resolutions and amendment were then referred to the Judiciary Committee were not reported back by it to the House. They remain still in the hands of the committee, for its action, and are not therefore before the House.

Matters remained in this condition until last night, when the irrepressible Smith, of Berks, and other parliamentary sharps, without distinction, seized time by the forelock, when original resolutions were in order, to offer a resolution to this effect: "That a committee of seven be now appointed, in accordance with the resolutions of January 7th." Only that and nothing more. Mr. Morgan, of Lawrence, offered an amendment that the investigation should "begin with and include McGrath's administration." This was adopted, and the resolution as amended was adopted.

Mr. Faunce then offered a concurrent resolution for an investigation of the State Treasury by a joint committee of the Senate and House; but the Speaker ruled that only an hour, under the rules, could be given to original resolutions, and so cut Faunce off, without allowing a vote upon the only practical proposition that has yet been made on the subject; and then, having got rid of that proposition, proceeded to appoint a committee of seven, five Democrats and two Republicans, to carry on the proposed investigation, he and the Democrats of the House all being fully persuaded in their own minds that they had really and actually ordered an investigation.

But had they? The resolutions introduced January 7th never were acted upon by the House, in any way whatever by it, and were not, last night in its possession. What, then, could Mr. Smith's resolution of last night mean, when it ordered the appointment of a committee "in accordance with the resolutions of January 7th?" There were no resolutions adopted on January 7th, and how can the House pass one resolution "in accordance" with other resolutions which it has neither acted on or adopted, and which are not in its possession? The thing is simply ridiculous, and the proceedings of last night is not worth the paper it is written on. It authorizes the appointment of a committee, which has been done; but it has not specified what the committee is to do, nor has it conferred power upon the committee to do anything.

The Constitution peremptorily forbids the amending, enacting or extending any bill by a mere reference to its title; the parts amended, re-enacted or extended must be set out at length and in full. If an existing law extended or amended by reference to its title only, how shall resolutions which never passed be extended by a mere reference to the date of their introduction?

The Democrats, to-day, have discovered their egregious blunder; but they do not know how to remedy it, as there is a wonderful facility for getting *into* difficulties, but the way out bothers them terribly.

But this was not all. When the journal was read, this morning, the amendment of Mr. Morgan was set forth in it as reading "including the term of Wm. V. McGrath," whereas it really read, as sent to the Clerk's desk, "*beginning with and* including the term" &c. This was a trick to avoid beginning the investigation with McGrath's term. They would include it by taking it up last, but they wanted to avoid beginning the investigation at that point. The evidence was clear that Mr. Morgan's amendment was written out and contained the words mentioned; yet the Democrats of the House (half of them got on a hour and a half to avoid making the correction. They were finally forced from every fastness, to yield the point, but did with exceeding reluctance.

The Senate had up three bills of importance to-day. The first was the bill suggesting amendments to the Constitution. All the amendments proposed by the Constitutional Commission were agreed to on second reading, except the judicial article. Mr. Yerkes proposed to amend it by striking out the four lines prohibiting the retention of associate judges not learned in the law. The Constitution, as it stands, contains this prohibition, in a section which the Commission propose to amend by striking out part and retaining part, and Mr. Yerkes urged that the power to authorize associate judges ought to be left to the Legislature, and not prohibited. He and the other gentlemen who spoke on the same side, urged that associate judges were, in the smaller counties, a public convenience. They were nearer to the people than the law judges, and served a very useful purpose. The amendment was adopted—yeas 25, nays 23—and the bill then passed second reading, after Mr. Jones had made an ineffectual effort to get in an amendment to reduce the number of Representatives from 200 to 100. There was a general acquiescence in the necessity for that reduction; but the consciousness that the House could never be got to agree to it helped to kill it.

The next bill was the old Bank bill of last winter, with the 30th section, over which such a fight was then had, forbidding all banks chartered under it from paying interest on deposits. Mr. Strang and Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny, strongly urged that while the general policy of the section was right, it was wrong to prevent State banks from doing what national banks were constantly doing. Mr. Playford and others contended that if the principle was right, it was the duty of the State to enforce it. The payment of interest on deposits gave a constituency to the banks all the loose capital of a community, to be loaned out at a higher and oppressive rate. This view seemed to prevail, for the section went through, 32 to 13, and the bill passed to third reading.

The other bill was the Pipe Line bill. When the first section was read, Mr. Strang said that while he felt disposed to afford all facilities for cheap transportation, the State, which now derived a great part of its revenue from railroads, was interested to the extent of the effect which the passage of this bill might have upon the revenues of the railroads, and thus, incidentally, upon the revenues of the State. He therefore moved to recommit it to the Committee on Finance, with instructions to inquire how far its passage would affect the State finances. Mr. McMichael, of Newmyer, Mr. Chalfant and Mr. Playford all spoke strongly against recommitment, and Mr. Dill and Mr. Strang for it, and the motion prevailed, 26 to 22. A direct vote on the first section would probably have killed it by the same vote. SPECIAL.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE

Germany.

MEASURES AGAINST EMIGRATION

LONDON, February 22.—A Berlin special says: One of the principal measures contemplated by Germany to check emigration is the prohibition of the enlistment of emigrants on foreign account by the payment of premiums. This is specially directed against the Brazilian agents.

BISMARCK'S RUMORED RETIREMENT.

Rumors that Prince Hohenlohe is to be appointed to assist Prince Bismarck, have no foundation. Bismarck's labors will be lightened by arrangements facilitating his control over the Prussian ministry. Thus the Premier will be enabled to retain his post until summer, when it may become necessary for him to consult his health with regard to the possibility of continuing in office.

France.

ASSEMBLY ELECTION.

PARIS, February 22.—The second ballot for member of Assembly in the department of Pas-de-Calais, yesterday, resulted as follows: M. Kirjegu, Legitimist, 40,000; Foucher de Careil, Republican, 41,000; Duc de Feltre, Bonapartist, 31,000. Another ballot is necessary.

EXCITED DEBATE IN THE ASSEMBLY.

PARIS, February 22.—The Assembly had a most important and excited session today. The report of the Committee of Thirty on the new projects for the organization of the Senate was read. It provides the American plan proposed by M. Van Tram at the sitting of February 12th, which was to elect Senators by a method similar to that by which the President of United States is chosen. The committee approve, with certain modifications, the bill offered by M. Waddington on the same day, which provides for the election of Senators by the Assembly, Councils-General, colonies and the Institute. They say that a Senate formed in this way is sure to contain experience and wisdom, and to be a certain extent, modelled after the Senate of the United States. Motions declaring urgency, and in favor of the immediate consideration of Waddington's bill, were amended by the committee, were made and receiving the support of both Centers and the entire Left, were passed. Interruptions upon the members of the Right withdrew from the chamber. The sitting was suspended for a few moments, when proceedings were resumed. The Marquis de Castillane, Monarchist, mounted the tribune and declared that the Senate would lead to dissolution and anarchy. He threatened that if measures were voted imposing on President MacMahon the necessity of organizing a republic, the Deputies of the Right would resign in a body. The Assembly proceeded to debate on the Senate bill. M. Duval, Bonapartist, again moved his amendment, that the Senate be elected by universal suffrage. The motion was rejected, the Bonapartist Duprey only voting for it. M. Wallon, Bonapartist, offered an amendment providing that the Senate be composed of three hundred members, of whom the departments and colonies shall elect two hundred and twenty-five, and the Assembly seventy-five. Adopted by a vote of 432 against 276. Another point, a motion was carried that the bill for the organization of the Public Powers, be made the order of the day for to-morrow, and the sitting adjourned.

OBSERVANCE OF WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

The legation of the United States and many private residences of Americans, were decorated with flags in honor of Washington's birthday. Minister Washburn, gave a banquet to-night.

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TELEGRAPH LINE DESTROYED IN CHINA.

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Sir Charles Lyell, the distinguished geologist, died yesterday, aged seventy-eight.

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At the afternoon session the following State ticket was nominated: For Governor, Jay Odell, of Cleveland; for Lieutenant-Governor, A. A. Thompson, of Franklin; Attorney General, S. S. Adams, of Cleveland; State Auditor, Belmont Locke, of Lawrence county; State Treasurer, H. Young, of Champaign; Supreme Judge, D. C. Montgomery, of Knox; Member of Board of Public Works, J. R. Buchtel, of Akron.

The Convention adopted their platform of last year, and in addition adopted resolutions favoring compulsory education, and indorsing the President of the United States for endeavoring to sustain the honor of the nation; also charging that the troubles in the Southern States was due to the failure of Congress to understand the situation, or its neglect to pass such legislation as was necessary to prevent scenes of anarchy and blood; also asking the cooperation of farmers and women to suppress the liquor traffic.

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NEW YORK.

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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 23, 1875.

Revenue Bill Passed.

After quite a struggle, the House this afternoon passed a revenue bill by a vote of 123 yeas to 113 nays. At one time there was a prospect of the defeat of the whole proposition. As the bill was originally reported from the Ways and Means Committee it was so loaded down with amendments as to almost break of its own weight. Mr. Dawes himself became so disgusted with the effort to amend, that he made a motion to strike out the enacting clause, which prevailed in the Committee of the Whole, but the House subsequently refused to ratify that action and the bill was recommitted. After it had been loaded with amendments the committee rose and Mr. Dawes offered a substitute, which was carried by the vote above indicated. The negative vote was 113, and it is a singular coincidence that on the proposition to tax incomes and that to tax tea and coffee the same number voted in the negative. The substitute as adopted fixes the tax on whisky at ninety cents, but does not tax the stock on hand. It leaves the tobacco and sugar sections of the bill as originally reported, and renews the ten per cent. homestead section. One of the coolest propositions ever made in the House was that of Mr. Hathorn, the owner of one of the best paying banks in Saratoga, to put an almost prohibitory duty upon foreign mineral waters. With the exception of Mr. Thomas, of Virginia, every gentleman representing a town or watering place voted against the proposition. The New England members manifestly thought the bill good for their section, as they all voted for it.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 24, 1875.

Mr. McGrew Withdraws.

It is learned that Mr. McGrew, of Cincinnati, has abandoned his designs on the office of Commissioner of Customs.

Bill to Relieve Commissioner Douglass.

The Senate Committee on Claims have decided adversely on the bill passed by the House to relieve J. W. Douglass, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, from the payment of eight thousand dollars, the balance of twenty thousand dollars embezzled by a subordinate while he was Collector of Internal Revenue for the Erie District. Mr. Douglass recovered twelve thousand dollars out of the property of the subordinate.

The Force Bill.

On and after to-morrow motions may be made to suspend the rules, and it is a question whether any motion to suspend will not take the floor, even from a member who had a right to report at any time. If a real test vote could be reached, it is not probable that the Force bill, as it is called, can be carried. The fight was renewed at the night session, when the House, by a vote of 90 to 83, refused to go into Committee on the Sundry Civil bill. Mr. Poland then moved to consider the report on Arkansas affairs. Mr. Garfield raised the question of consideration, and the House, by a large majority, refused to consider it. This is accounted for on the ground that some of the Republicans and the Democrats are not disposed at this time to enter into a discussion of the Louisiana question, preferring to take up the Appropriation bill. On a direct issue between taking up the Arkansas bill or the Force bill, there would be a large majority in favor of the former motion; but there were so many antagonistic motions that that issue could not be made. During the evening the greatest confusion prevailed on the floor.

Appointments for Maynard and Donnan.

The Iowa delegation have recommended Representative Donnan to the President for a foreign mission. It is stated that he will probably be appointed to Brussels. Horace Maynard will, on presenting his credentials, get Constantinople or the District Judgeship in Tennessee.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 23, 1875.

REPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE LOUISIANA COMMITTEE.

The undersigned, a majority of the Committee on the State of the South, respectfully report that they cannot agree to the report made to the committee by Messrs. Hoar, Wheeler and Frye. The laws inimical to the colored people of Louisiana, referred to in this report, have been repealed for years. Except during the schism of Governor Warmoth, in 1872, the Republican party has long had control of the machinery of the State. The late registration shows an excess of the colored over the white voters, giving 90,781 colored to 76,823 whites. If, as has been alleged, any direct evidence that the late election was not free and fair, the assumption of the minority that enough colored voters must therefore have been prevented from voting, is, when amended by the committee, were made and receiving the support of both Centers and the entire Left, were passed. Interruptions upon the members of the Right withdrew from the chamber. The sitting was suspended for a few moments, when proceedings were resumed. The Marquis de Castillane, Monarchist, mounted the tribune and declared that the Senate would lead to dissolution and anarchy. He threatened that if measures were voted imposing on President MacMahon the necessity of organizing a republic, the Deputies of the Right would resign in a body. The Assembly proceeded to debate on the Senate bill. M. Duval, Bonapartist, again moved his amendment, that the Senate be elected by universal suffrage. The motion was rejected, the Bonapartist Duprey only voting for it. M. Wallon, Bonapartist, offered an amendment providing that the Senate be composed of three hundred members, of whom the departments and colonies shall elect two hundred and twenty-five, and the Assembly seventy-five. Adopted by a vote of 432 against 276. Another point, a motion was carried that the bill for the organization of the Public Powers, be made the order of the day for to-morrow, and the sitting adjourned.

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ORTWEIN HANGED.

LAST HOURS OF THE MURDERER.

His Conduct on the Scaffold.

He Makes Confessions to His Spiritual Advisers and Counsel.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.

Details of the Crime, Conviction, Execution, Etc., Etc.

The midday sun on Tuesday shone upon a scene in the county jail yard that will linger a long time in the memories of those who witnessed it—the strangling to death of a human being. At the time stated Ernst Ortwein, the slayer of a whole family, of five persons—a father, mother and three innocent little children—paid the penalty of his terrible crime on the gallows.

THE CRIME AND THE VICTIMS.

The murder for which Ortwein was hanged has already been recounted in these columns at various times at great length, and it will therefore serve our purpose at present to briefly state a few circumstances connected therewith: The names of the persons murdered were John Hamnett, Mrs. Agnes Hamnett, his wife, Ida and Emma Hamnett, their children, aged respectively eight and four years, and Robert Smith, a lad aged twelve years, whom Mr. Hamnett had taken from the County Poor Farm to raise.

ORTWEIN, THE MURDERER,

was employed as a farm hand by Mr. Hamnett, who resided on a farm near the village of Homestead, on the south side of the Monongahela river, some six miles above this city. He had been living with his victims several months, when one day—the 30th of April, 1874—Mr. Hamnett and wife went to Homestead to visit some friends, leaving the little girls in charge of Robert Smith, the bound boy. Ortwein, it seems, also went to Homestead, where he remained until dark. According to his confession he drank several glasses of beer before he started for the Hamnett residence and before going there he bought a quantity of candy for the children. We give the remainder of his confession, as made at the time of his arrest, in his own words, as translated by a German interpreter:

THE CONFESSION.

"While on my way home it came into my head that I must have Hamnett's money; I thought he had a good deal of money in the house, and as I felt so much in my head all at once, I thought I must get it. I went directly to the house, but don't know how I got there. I suppose I must have been out of my mind. My mind got into the house I found Mr. and Mrs. Hamnett had not come. It occurred to me that to get the money I must kill the children. I found a broad axe in the kitchen, taking it with me, went up into the room over the kitchen where Robbie and myself slept. Robert was sleeping soundly, with his face toward me. I took position in front of the bed, and with one blow killed the boy. He never moved. I may have struck him twice, but he never groaned. I then went into the room adjoining room where Ida and little Emma were sleeping. Both of them were sleeping. I struck Ida first, and she never moved. I then raised the axe and struck Emma. She uttered a cry, and I hit her the second time and killed her.

After this I went down stairs and took a position just inside the door of the room adjoining the kitchen and waited for Mr. and Mrs. Hamnett to come home. They came between ten and eleven o'clock, Mr. Hall coming in first. I was standing so that he could not see me, and I struck him from behind, using the same ax with which I killed the children. He fell to the floor. Mrs. Hamnett came rushing into the room, and as she passed through the door I struck her, but did not kill her. She shrieked once or twice, "O God, John!" and then I struck her a second blow, which killed her instantly. Mrs. Hamnett and the baby were the only ones I struck twice.

I committed this deed to get Mr. Hamnett's money; I searched his pocket and obtained his pocket book; it contained only fifteen dollars in paper money. I found Mrs. Hamnett's pocketbook on the sewing machine. There was only fifty cents in it. I looked all over the house, but could not find any more money. My only motive in doing the deed was to get the money. I never had any ill feeling toward the Hamnetts. I always liked the children, and always bought them candy when I called for it at Homestead. The boy Smith and I were good friends, and I always liked Mr. and Mrs. Hamnett.

I did not fire the house, and it was not part of a plan to cover up the murder. When searching the house I put an oil lamp in the sitting-room, and when running away from the building it was overturned. I thought the fire would go out; I did not think the house would burn."

THE FLIGHT, ARREST AND CONVICTION

of Ortwein are matters so well known to all our readers that a mere passing notice of the same, aside from the murderer's own story, will suffice at this time. The burning of the house attracted the attention of the neighbors, who rushed to the spot and made every effort to subdue the flames. The house was burned to the ground, and as none of the family could be found, it was supposed they had perished by the fire. Soon, however, the bodies of the children were found in the ashes and removed from the surrounding ruins, and the cloven skulls of the victims showed plainly that they had been murdered with an ax or some similar weapon.

ANOTHER CONFESSION.

We make such extracts from a confession made by the murderer, June 8, 1874—eleven days before his conviction—to his counsel, Messrs. Swartzwelder, Moore and Luty, as will be of interest, in that they cover the lapse of time from the commission of the crime until his incarceration in the Allegheny county jail.

Commencing with the statement that he and Mr. Hamnett were making post-holes on the day of the murder, Ortwein continues: Quit work about five and a half or six o'clock, went to supper and worked an hour afterwards. There were neighbors there at supper time. The Hamnetts went away with the neighbors. At dinner time they talked about going away after supper. I did not understand what they said to each other, as they did not tell me to go with them. They went away about five or six times before. We sat up for them sometimes when Mr. Hamnett told us not to go to bed.

About seven o'clock they went up to a neighbor's. After Hamnett and his wife went away the boy Smith and I cut hay and fed the horses and cows. It was yet light. Then I went to Homestead. The boy Smith was not along. Left the children and the boy up in the house. I went to Homestead for fifty cents worth of sugar for the Hamnetts and for tobacco and cigars for me. After supper Mrs. Hamnett asked me if I was going to Homestead, and I said "yes." She then told me to bring me fifty cents' worth of sugar." Homestead is a mile from Hamnett's. It was dark when I started. I met a boy and girl about my age, on the way. I went to a saloon and got two glasses of beer. The saloon is not far away from the graveyard where a church is. When the saloon three or four sat at the table playing cards or something else. I remained in the saloon about fifteen minutes; then I went to the store for sugar and tobacco. I also bought candy for the children. As often as I went down to buy anything, I bought candy for the children. A man named Hall was selling goods in and I left him there. I remained in the store fifteen or twenty minutes, then I went home. Rode

tages of modern machinery. The difference in their appearance from those who first came into the chapel was most striking. Now they seem healthy, hopeful and manly. All hope has not fled.

* * * *

"We are working at opposite ends of the line. I am seeking to educate men so that they may live usefully, happily and successfully; you are seeking to do the most possible for the happiness and reformation of those who have fallen by the way and so far failed in life, by a want of self control, by the neglect or cruelty of parents, the evil example of others, or by peculiar temptations.

* * * *

"I congratulate you most heartily on the success which has attended your efforts, secorded as they have been by your associates—efforts made under difficulties and unaccompanied by earthly rewards or honors."

THE NEW BUILDINGS.

The Board thus speaks of the new shops: The building for the use of the work shops, which has been erected during the last summer, is a credit to the State. In size, it is 48 by 200 feet; two stories in height, with a basement partially above ground. It contains six large rooms, which will conveniently accommodate three hundred workmen. The rooms are now all occupied but one.

* * * *

To the Warden and Deputy Warden we are greatly indebted for their untiring vigilance and untiring watchfulness over each successive stage of the work until it was done. And we have a word of praise, also, for the prisoners who were employed on and about this building. These men never faltered in their interest in the work nor flagged in their zeal, and could not have performed more faithful work. If they had been putting up a building to shelter their wives and children at home.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1875.

The Board ask the Legislature to appropriate for the present year the following sums:

For salaries of officers	$24,500
For new water pipe	500
For new boilers	5,000
For new books and stationery for prison-ers' use	250
	$30,250

WARDEN'S REPORT.

Captain E. S. Wright, Warden, reports in detail the operations of the prison. Of the 198 discharged during the year, 7 were by expiration of sentence, 163 by commutation, 19 by pardon, 1 escaped, 6 died, 1 committed suicide, and 1 was released by *habeas corpus*.

The average daily number in the prison was 426½. Owing to the prevailing depression in all branches of business, and the unprofitable character of the industries hitherto conducted, the average number of the prisoners were kept idle until after the completion of the new work shops. Since then a gradual, but marked, change has been effected, as will be seen from the following exhibit of labor and earnings.

The financial result is more satisfactory than for some years past. With a greater population, and many idle, as before stated, for lack of profitable labor, we have yet been able to effect a reduction in the charges upon the counties in this district to less than half the amount paid in 1873. This change is mainly attributable to the new work shop erected last summer.

The usual statistical tables accompany the report.

SANITARY CONDITION.

Dr. D. N. Rankin reports a greater amount of sickness than had occurred for several years previously, owing to the typhoid fever epidemic of last fall. The percentage of mortality, however, compares favorably with that of Allegheny city, which was 250 last year. Seventy cases were removed to the hospital during the year. Of the six deaths from disease, one was from gangrene of lungs; chronic diarrhoea, one; typhoid pneumonia one; typhoid fever, three. Of the one hundred and ninety-eight convicts discharged during the year, all with but twenty-two exceptions, have left the prison in an improved state of health. Of the whole number of prisoners received during the year, eighty-nine were physically impaired at the time of their admission; sixty-nine reported themselves sober; eighty-two moderate drinkers; forty-nine occasionally intoxicated; and seventeen intemperate.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

The chaplain, Rev. John Milligan, submits an interesting report as to the moral work of the prison. Speaking of the chapel services, he says:

Religious worship has been regularly observed in the chapel every Sabbath morning. Miss Fannie S. Wright is the organist, and as such she is self-denying, faithful and accomplished, and receives the highest commendation of all. Professor W. H. Slack leads the choir, composed of twelve prisoners. In no audience of the same size does the preaching of the Word meet with more ready hearing. The order and attention have been most satisfactory. Good results have been accomplished. The Holy Spirit has reached many hearts.

In reference to the library, he says: Seven hundred and ten new books were added to the list. As the library is in daily use, with its range of history, biography, &c., it is undoubtedly a strong reformatory as well as disciplinary agency. Thirteen thousand, seven hundred and forty-one books were delivered to the cells in eleven months. This fact, coupled with the excellent care taken of them, indicates the value placed upon them.

The difficulties and dangers which beset the discharged prisoner are referred to by the chaplain, who makes this suggestion:

I think a practical plan would be found in an industrial home, where the discharged prisoner could labor sufficiently to pay for his keeping, and thus give proof of his good resolutions, until he could secure more remunerative work could be found, and thus reabsorb himself into the ranks of honesty and trusted citizenship without the barriers that now cluster around his efforts. The discharged list this year numbers 198, which is eight more than last year. From many of these I have heard most favorable reports. Four of them are now working at the trade learned in prison, in the distant West.

IGNORANCE AND INTEMPERANCE.

The Chaplain continues: The number received this year is forty-five more than last year, being 217 against 172. Doubtless the want of steady labor has contributed largely to this increase. Their educational status was as follows: Twenty-seven could neither read nor write; forty-one could do so imperfectly; 145 could read and write; three had received a superior education. Thus it will be seen that sixty-nine, or nearly one-third, can claim some exemption for their criminal action on the ground of ignorance.

Out of the 217 received, 148 acknowledged to have been more or less addicted to the use of intoxicants. Thus this is an evil increasing in its baleful effects no one can deny. As agencies to culture proper feelings against it among the inmates, I occasionally speak earnestly from the pulpit, and always in private when the opportunity is afforded, besides each cell is supplied with an almanac and other publications from the National Temperance Association.

THE TEACHER'S REPORT.

Mr. J. S. Travelli, the efficient teacher, makes an interesting report, but our limited space will not permit even a synopsis. On the whole, the report is one of the best ever made by the Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary, and in favor of encouragement for those who have struggled for the change from the old to the new and better system of management.

JAMES B. NEILSON.

Inventor of the Hot Blast.

James Beaumont Neilson was born at Shettleston, a small village near Glasgow, on the 22d of June, 1792, the same year that Robert Morris, of Philadelphia, purchased six thousand acres of the great Lehigh coal property. Neilson's parents were poor; his father never made more than sixteen shillings a week. James' education was confined to reading, writing and arithmetic, which he obtained at the parish school, and when fourteen years of of age he was apprenticed to learn the trade of an engineer. When through his apprenticeship, he was employed by William Taylor, to look after his engines at the coal works of Irvine. In 1817 he was appointed foreman of the Glasgow gas works. While managing the gas works, he established a Workman's Institute for mutual improvement.

In 1825 Mr. James Ewing directed the attention of Neilson from defect in one of the Muirkirk blast furnaces, situated about half a mile distant from the blowing engines, which was found not to work so well as others which were close to the engine. This was strange indeed, for one furnace was exactly like the other, and their burdens precisely the same. Neilson conceived the idea that friction retarded the passage of the blast in the long pipe, and immediately commenced experimenting in a small way at the gas works. His experiments confirmed his impression, and he then recommended Mr. Ewing to build a fire under the long pipe, because when the blast was warm it would travel faster.

This advice the company soon put to take, because, they said, "the biggest dunce knows we make the best iron in winter, when the blast is coldest." This gave Neilson a new idea, and he determined to solve the problem whether the temperature of the blast had any effect to hasten or retard coaking.

After exhaustive experiments he was convinced beyond a doubt that increased temperature of the blast would produce more rapid combustion, and in 1828 he filed his application for a patent. Alone he stood battling for his invention. The wisest men laughed at him, because the less blast furnace men wanted coal to cool their blast in summer. At length, however, Mr. Colm Dunlap allowed Neilson to make a trial of his hot blast at the Clyde Iron Works, in return for which Neilson gave Dunlap and his associates seven-tenths of the patent. The trial was successful, and as it made quite a stir, the patents were reissued with improvements in 1831.

What an eventful life! How profitable to mankind! He served his apprentice ship and learned to work, and by careful study learned to think, and reason from effect to cause. With brain and muscle he walked the path, practically demonstrating each hypothetical deduction, from fact to fact, until he perfected his great invention. How many thousand brighter minds have theorized all their lives without profitable reward? Experimental education is what we want, and that is the design of the State in establishing the Mechanics' High School of Pennsylvania.

J. R.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 24, 1875.

The condition of the Pittsburgh loan market is unchanged. The subject that today attracts the most attention in monetary circles is the suspension of the banking house of Hart, Caughey & Co. The senior partner has been in the banking business in this city for over thirty-five years, and his house has always bore the reputation of being one of the most conservative, well managed and solid houses in the city, and doing a limited but safe business. Their troubles, however, date back to September, 1873, at which time they had locked up with Jay Cooke & Co. $15,197 25. The numerous failures in mercantile circles since that time have impaired their resources, until they found themselves unable to longer continue the struggle to recover.

They state their liabilities at about $160,000, with assets at $130,000, and, as "liquidation always means loss," there will probably be a shrinkage in these figures. Personally, the members of the firm have the sympathies and best wishes of the banks and the public. Yet their suspension is greatly to be regretted at this time, when every influence possible is needed to restore lost confidence and animate the deadened energies of the community.

—It will be seen by our Harrisburg dispatches that the bank bill has passed the second reading in the Senate. We have before us a copy of the bill as passed, and epitomize it as follows:

The first section provides that corporations for the purpose of banking may be formed by not less than three persons, who shall enter into articles of association and file the same with the Attorney General. Notice of intention to form such corporation must be published once a week for three months before the application is presented. No bank shall be formed with a less capital than $50,000, and the shares shall not be less than $50 each. Stockholders are made individually liable to an amount equal to a par of their stock, equally and ratably, but not the one for the other.

The clause regulating the right to hold real estate is the same as the national banking law, with the exception that banks organized under the provisions of this act can hold such real estate as shall be mortgaged to them in good faith as security for debts contracted.

Section nine is copied from the national banking law, and requires fifty per cent. of the capital to be paid in before commencing business, and ten per cent. per month thereafter until the whole has been paid in.

Section twelve requires that every organization must have at least five directors, one of whom shall be the president; also, that no cashier, clerk or teller in any of the corporations organized under this act shall be eligible as a director. Each director is required to own, free from all encumbrance, ten shares of stock.

Dividends may be declared quarterly or semi-annually in each year, of so much of the net profits of the corporation as may be judged expedient, but, before declaring a dividend, all losses to the extent of the profits shall be carried to surplus account until the surplus account amounts to 25 per cent. of the capital, after which time dividends of the whole amount of the earnings may be made and declared.

So far the bill is a good one, and is largely modelled on the national banking law, and if this was the whole of the bill we should be pleased to see it become a law.

Section thirty, over which there was a good deal of discussion, under the provisions of this act, shall not pay interest on deposits, and any violation of this section shall work a forfeiture of the charter of the bank so paying interest."

Should this provision of the bill become a law it would remain forever a dead letter on the statute books. The restriction is so absolute and sweeping as to make the whole bill useless.

The use of money is a valuable consideration and is entitled to a reasonable compensation. The *rate* that should be paid for money is a question open to a difference of opinion. We so recently gave our opinion on the subject of paying high rates for call deposits, that we will not here reiterate them; but when money is left with a bank for a specified time, and the bank can calculate upon the use of money so deposited, it is neither dangerous or improper to pay the depositor for the use of his money.

The evils attending the payment of interest on daily balances have frequently been brought to the attention of Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Comptroller of the Currency, and efforts have been made by the more conservative bankers to discourage the practice. In his last report to Congress, the Secretary states that the difficulty in the way of legislation is, that while Congress has the power to prohibit the payment of interest on deposits by the national banks by the imposition of penalties, it has no such power with reference to the State banks and private bankers. The only practicable legislation upon this subject which would cover all cases and reach all banks and bankers alike would seem to be the imposition of a special tax upon all interest bearing deposits.

The effort of the Pennsylvania Legislature to reach the evil in the section above quoted, would certainly prove abortive, as it would not apply to national or private banks, or to State banks already organized.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the St. Clair Banking Company, No. 16 Sixth street:

February 24, 1875.	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:30
	A. M.	A. M.	M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.
Gold	113½	113½	113½	113½	113½	113½
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½
U. S. 5's, 1881, coup	119½	119½	119½	119½	117½	117½
5-20's, 1865	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½
5-20's, 1865, new	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½
5-20's, 1867	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½
5-20's, 1867 Registered	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½
5-20's, 1868	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½
10-40's, coupon	115½	115½	115½	115½	115½	115½
10-40's, coupons	116½	116½	116½	116½	116½	116½
Currency 6's	119	119	119	119	119	119
New 5 per cents	114½	114½	114½	114½	114½	114½
Western Union Tel.	72½	72½	72½	72½	72½	72½
Fort Wayne	131	131	131	131	131	131
Pacific Mail	31½	31½	32	32	32	32
Panama	101	101	101	101	101	101
Adams Express	93	93	93	93	93	93
Wells-Fargo Express	85	85	85	85	85	85
American Express	63½	63½	63½	63½	63½	63½
United States Ex'p	58	58	58	58	58	58
New York Central	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½
Erie	27½	27½	27½	27½	27½	27½
Michigan Central	79	79	79	79	79	79
Michigan Southern	73½	73½	73½	73½	73½	73½
Illinois Central	101	101	101	101	101	101
Cleve. & Pittsburgh	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
Chicago & North'w'n	42½	42½	42½	42½	42½	42½
Do preferred	55	54½	54½	54½	54½	54½
Rock Island	103½	103½	103½	103½	103½	103½
St. Paul, common	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½
Do preferred	57	57	57	57	57	57
Wabash, common	25½	25½	25½	25½	25½	25½
Do preferred	39½	39½	39½	39½	39½	39½
Ohio & Mississippi	31	31	31	31	31	31
Union Pacific	78½	78½	78½	78½	78½	78½
Hannibal & St. Joe	12	12	12	12	12	12
C. C. & I. C.	9½	9½	9½	9½	9½	9½
Tennessee, old	67	67	67	67	67	67
Do. new	57	57	57	57	57	57
South Carolina, Apl	31½	31½	31½	31½	31½	31½
Georgia 6's, new	90	90	90	90	90	90
Missouri 6's	96	96	96	96	96	96

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central, sales	55	
Pennsylvania Central Scrip	97	
Reading	96½	97
Reading, Co's of N. Jersey, sales	53	
Oil Creek, sales	11	
Lehigh Valley	62	63½
Allegheny Valley	9	11
Central Transportation	44½	44¾

GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 24, 1875.

The course of trade to-day was quiet, with little of interest to note in any department of trade. The volume of transactions continues rather limited, as the stringency of the times has checked consumption to a very great extent in and around Pittsburgh, while out of town buyers are adhering closely to the cautious policy, and buy only what is necessary for immediate trade. Retailers in this section are not generally carrying large stocks, which enhance the future movement among wholesalers to the dimensions of a jobbing trade and makes business circles dull and sluggish generally.

The annual election of officers of the Chamber of Commerce, which takes place next Tuesday, is a matter of interest to the entire business community. The organization of that body has already secured valuable results to Pittsburgh trade and commerce; and if kept up, it will bring almost incalculable advantages in the future. In that election there not only should all classes of business be represented, but every mercantile and manufacturing establishment in the city should be present to aid in its success. The objects to be gained through the Chamber of Commerce are of interest to all, and every one should unite in securing to it the unqualified success.

In the market transactions to-day, there was not much to note. Values were generally steady, and prices retained about the same position as previously noted. In grain, corn was a shade lower; wheat, oats, hay and feed were steady. The produce market was moderately active with a good demand and liberal transactions in butter and eggs, apples and potatoes. Flour was dull and unchanged. Provisions ruled moderately active at easy prices, while the groceries, dry goods, boot and shoes, hides and leather, and the cognate lines of trade in general merchandise experienced a limited and apathetic movement.

The total foreign exports of butter from New York from May 1, 1874, to February 17, 1875, amounted to 4,147,631 pounds, against 2,889,209 pounds for the same time in 1873-4. The exports of cheese during the time stated were equal to 86,191,422 pounds, against 80,833,183 pounds for the corresponding period in 1873-4.

The weekly circular of Mr. Charles A. Easton gives the receipts of cotton at the ports for the week ending last Friday at 164,067 bales, making since September 1, 1874, 2,703,372 bales, against 2,788,425 to same date last year. The exports for the week were 73,274 bales, making 1,528,843 bales since September 1, 1874, against 1,512,849 to same date previous year. The stocks compare as follows:

	1875.	1874.	1873.
At the ports	854,478	848,118	524,400
At interior towns	187,481	154,828	80,168
Total	991,959	1,002,946	613,676

It will be seen that the receipts at the ports to latest dates show a decrease of 80,934 bales as compared with last year, and 240,280 in excess of 1873. Taking into consideration stocks at home and abroad, quantity afloat, &c., the visible supply is represented to be 2,503,296 bales, against 2,541,349 last year, an increase of 24,986 bales as compared 1874, and an increase of 886,960 bales as compared with 1873. Stock held by Manchester spinners 245,000 bales, against 255,000 last year, and 135,000 the year before.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce since our last, are as follows:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	5,569	7,854	13,423
Apples, bbls	401	1,021	1,425
Cheese, lbs	24	174	198
Corn, sks	4,353	3,748	8,101
Wheat, sks	1,481	3,816	5,299
Barley, sks	2,207	2,070	4,277
Rye, sks	598	231	799
Oats, sks	7,390	9,187	16,487
Butter, kgs	514	1,495	1,909
Bacon, pcs	3,928	1,454	5,382
Bacon, tes	830	417	1,247
Potatoes, bush		5,505	5,505
Hay, bunches	2,343	2,704	7,047

The following quotations are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free of elevator:

GRAIN, FLOUR AND FEED.

GRAIN—The grain trade was a little slow to-day, and transactions in round lots are rather limited. About eight cars of grain changed hands at the Chamber of Commerce to-day, which, with sixteen cars on the previous day makes a very fair average of transactions. Receipts continue light for the time of year, and exceed over last week, being 47,328 bushels of all kinds of grain, while low rail-shed [illegible] car was also somewhat depressed, closing at 56c per bushel, delivered. Following are the quotations in corn on 'Change here: been quite liberal during the past two days, comprising twelve cars at quotations.

Oats—With slowly increasing receipts, 22,938 bu hels the past week, against 18,250 bushels previous week, the market has ruled dull and slightly to-day, sales being made at 65½c for white-oats-Odd lots are quoted at 66c in elevator. Quotations are at 65½c for prime white; 63½@64½c for mixed.

Rye and Barley—Quiet and nominal, there being not transactions enough in this market to establish quotations. Receipts for the week ending the past week were 5,175 bushels: of rye 575.

Seeds—We note the following sales of grain in round lots to-day:

car wheat, mixed	p. t.	
1 car shelled corn, yellow	78	c
1 cars shelled corn, mixed	77½	c
1 car car corn, prime yellow	77	c
1 car car corn, prime yellow	77	c
1 car car corn, prime yellow	76½	c
1 car car corn, prime yellow	76	c
1 car white oats, in sacks	65½	c
2 cars white oats, in sacks	65½	c
1 car white oats, in sacks	p. t.	
1 car mixed oats, in sacks	62	c

FLOUR—The market for round lots continues dull and depressed, while in a jobbing way trade is steady, but only to a low grade. Receipts for the week are 7,854 barrels against 5,569 barrels last week. Shipments 5,733 bbls out of flour sold on 'Change yesterday at a private price. The following are the wholesale prices of the leading brands: No. 1 white wheat flour $7 20 ₱bbl: No. 1 amber wheat do $6 90; red wheat do $6 50; No. 1 white iron do $6 bbl. The jobbing prices of the leading dealers are as follows: Choice brands of white winter wheat flour $6 00@6 25; Minnesota $5 75@6 00; red winter wheat flour $5 75@6 00; rye flour $5 75; Graham flour $5 75; self-raising flour, 24 lb packages, $5 75@6 00 ₱ bbl; cornmeal, old do $3 75; new $3 40@3 50; oatmeal $7 75@8 00.

HAY—The market continues steady with receipts of 2,704 bales for the past week. Two cars of timothy sold at the Chamber of Commerce this morning at $22 00 per ton; 1 car oat straw at $17 50; 3 cars do $18 00. We quote prime timothy, on track, at $20@22 00 ₱ ton; choice do $18 00@19 00; inferior $15 00@17 00; baled hay from store, $1 00 per cwt. higher. Loose hay is selling at $25 00@27 00 for No. 1; $23 00@24 00 for No. 2. Straw is quoted at $16 00@18 00 ₱ ton.

MILL FEED—Bran is strong at $1 20@1 25 ₱ cwt; shorts at $1 25@1 30 ₱ cwt; mixed at $1 40@1 45 ₱ cwt; chopped feed $1 55@1 65 ₱ cwt; oilmeal $1 90@2 00 ₱ cwt.

GROCERIES.

The grocery trade continues limited, and the market has received a special demoralization from the financial troubles of the heavy operations affecting the trade, both the buying and selling interests here and in the East being unwilling to operate beyond the most limited requirement of these questions. Coffee and tea are a little firm, but still there is not much doing. The stock of Rio is accumulating at seaboard ports, which tends to counteract the influence of the recent agitation. Teas are steady and unchanged in New York, which makes the market firm here. Molasses, rice, sugars and spices are unchanged. Prices current are as follows:

Green Coffees. ₱ lb.		*Sugars.*	
Fancy Rio	24½c	Standard A	10½c
Choice Rio	23½c	Standard B	10½c
Prime Rio	22c	Granulated	10½c
Good Rio	20c	Franklin extra C	9½c
Java, Rio	33c	American extra C	9c
		Crushed	10½c
Roasted Coffees.		Cut loaf	11½c
Rio, in papers	26c	Powdered	11c
Java, in papers	41c	Confectioners' A	11c
Java, in bulk	40c		
Teas.		*Molasses.*	₱ gal.
Young Hyson	50@81 00	Strictly ch'ce N. O.	72c
Gunpowder	60@1 25	Prime	68c
Imperial	50@1 00	Good	65c
Japan	35@1 00	*Syrups.*	
Oolong	35@1 00	Ex. white drips	75c
Fancy	1 00	Sugar drips	65c
Souchong	35@1 00	Lower grades	45@60c
Rice.	₱ lb.	*Raisins.*	₱ bx.
Choice Carolina	8@9c	Valentias	$3 25
Patna	7½@8c	Currants	12 c
Rangoon	7½@7½c	Prunes	7½c
Spices.		*Starch.*	₱ lb.
Cloves	55 c	Common	9½c
Allspice	17½@18c	Silver gloss	9½c
Cassia	40 c	Corn	10½c
Nutmegs	1 35@1 40	*Soda.*	
Pepper	27 c	Bi-carb. ₱ 10-lb kgs.	6c
Candles.	18c	Bi-carb. ₱ lb papers	8c
Star, full weight	15c		
Stearine	15c		

The total exports of sugars from Havana and Matanzas from 1st January to latest dates compare thus:

	1875.		1874.	
	Hds.	Bxs.	Hds.	Bxs.
United States	33,493	15,370	20,000	11,000
Great Britain	12,233		20,151	2,695
North of Europe	193		855	
France	500	222		
Spain	3,636	544	9,993	
South of Europe				
Other parts	379	13	273	
Total	50,405	16,255	71,060	14,695

The exports as above show a decrease of 20,655 boxes, and an increase of 1,560 hogsheads compared with 1874, and an increase of 10,210 boxes and of 34,655 hogsheads compared with 1873.

FISH—There is a moderately active jobbing trade, at generally steady prices. We quote as follows:

No. 1 extra mess	Large do ₱ 100
mackerel ₱ bbl	Boneless do
No. 1 mess	₱ lb
No. 1 shore	White fish, ₱ half bbl
Extra No. 1 bay	Lake herring, ₱ half bbl
No. 1 bay	Lake herring, ₱ kit
No. 2 bay	Hf bbl
No. 2 bay	Labrador herring
New No. 3	Cheese
Georges codfish	Round do
medium, ₱ 100	

TOBACCO—The market is quiet and unchanged. Quotations are as follows:

Spun roll	Rough & Ready
Black Navy	Fine Cut Plugs
Black Twists	Fine Cut
Black Quarters	Cut and Dry
Louisville Navy	Scotch Snuff
Louisville Cav	Black Snuff
Virginia Navy	Six Twist
Virginia Cav	Cigars
Virginia Cav	Penn'a Seed
Double Thick	Connecticut Seed
Plug	Seed & Havana
Bright Pounds	Havanas

CANNED GOODS—There is a moderate but steady jobbing trade. Tomatoes, 3-lb cans, per doz, $1 75@2 00; peaches, 2-lb cans, per doz, $2 50; corn, 2-lb cans, per doz, $1 90@2 00; peas, 2-lb cans, $2 25; string beans, 2-lb cans, $1 75; cherries, 2-lb cans, $2 25@2 50; blackberries, 2-lb cans, $1 75@2 00; strawberries, 2-lb cans, $2 50; pineapples, 2-lb cans, $2 50; asparagus, 2-lb cans, $3 75; pineapples, 3-lb cans, $2 50; quinces, 2-lb cans, $2 25; mixed pickles, per doz, $1 25; quart pickles, per doz, $2 25; 3-lb gallon pickles, per doz, $5 00.

CANADA OATS—The market is firmer. We quote 13½@14c from store: sales of round lots on the cars are made at a reduction on these rates.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

APPLES—There is an increased supply, receipts during the week being 1,021 bbls. The market is tolerably active, but the demand is principally for immediate wants. Strictly choice apples are quoted at $2 75@3 00 ₱ bbl; $2 25@2 50 for choice; $1 50@2 00 for common to medium.

APPLE BUTTER—Is in fair supply and prices are easy. We quote at 50@55c ₱ gallon, in kegs, per private sale; 50@60c common.

BEANS—The demand is light and supply liberal. We quote prime white navy at $1 90@2 00 per bushel; medium $1 75@1 85; fair to good $1 60@1 70.

BUTTER—There is a steady demand for good grades, but as receipts are liberal, being 1,069 packages, estimated at 35,329 pounds, for two weeks, prices are easy and the demand is fully met. Indeed dealers seem inclined to concede a little to buyers' views rather than suffer an accumulation of stock to take place. The market is quotable at about 28@30c for choice, and 26@28c for medium; poor to common grades meet with no favor from buyers, and are unquotable.

BEESWAX—Prime yellow beeswax is quoted at 36@38c ₱ lb, in round lots; sales in a jobbing way are made at 38@40c ₱ lb.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Buckwheat flour is rather easy, and in large supply at $3 00 ₱ cwt; $7 00 ₱ bbl; self-raising buckwheat flour is quoted, in 6 lb packages, at $4 20 ₱ dozen packages.

CHEESE—There is little or no cheese coming in, the receipts for the past week being only 174 boxes. The market is steady, and the demand seems to be improving. Prices are steady and unchanged. We quote at 16½@17c ₱ lb for Ohio factory; New York Goshen 17½@18c; Sweitzer 18@19c ₱ lb.

EGGS—Receipts are moderate, demand active at easy prices, while the groceries, dry goods, boot and shoes, hides and leather, and the cognate lines of trade in general merchandise experienced a limited and apathetic movement.

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1 car mixed oats, in sacks	62	c

FLOUR—The market for round lots continues dull and depressed, while in a jobbing way trade is steady, but only to a low grade. Receipts for the week are 7,854 barrels against 5,569 barrels last week. Shipments 5,733 bbls out of flour sold on 'Change yesterday at a private price. The following are the wholesale prices of the leading brands: No. 1 white wheat flour $7 20 ₱bbl: No. 1 amber wheat do $6 90; red wheat do $6 50; No. 1 white iron do $6 bbl. The jobbing prices of the leading dealers are as follows: Choice brands of white winter wheat flour $6 00@6 25; Minnesota $5 75@6 00; red winter wheat flour $5 75@6 00; rye flour $5 75; Graham flour $5 75; self-raising flour, 24 lb packages, $5 75@6 00 ₱ bbl; cornmeal, old do $3 75; new $3 40@3 50; oatmeal $7 75@8 00.

HAY—The market continues steady with receipts of 2,704 bales for the past week. Two cars of timothy sold at the Chamber of Commerce this morning at $22 00 per ton; 1 car oat straw at $17 50; 3 cars do $18 00. We quote prime timothy, on track, at $20@22 00 ₱ ton; choice do $18 00@19 00; inferior $15 00@17 00; baled hay from store, $1 00 per cwt. higher. Loose hay is selling at $25 00@27 00 for No. 1; $23 00@24 00 for No. 2. Straw is quoted at $16 00@18 00 ₱ ton.

MILL FEED—Bran is strong at $1 20@1 25 ₱ cwt; shorts at $1 25@1 30 ₱ cwt; mixed at $1 40@1 45 ₱ cwt; chopped feed $1 55@1 65 ₱ cwt; oilmeal $1 90@2 00 ₱ cwt.

GROCERIES.

The grocery trade continues limited, and the market has received a special demoralization from the financial troubles of the heavy operations affecting the trade, both the buying and selling interests here and in the East being unwilling to operate beyond the most limited requirement of these questions. Coffee and tea are a little firm, but still there is not much doing. The stock of Rio is accumulating at seaboard ports, which tends to counteract the influence of the recent agitation. Teas are steady and unchanged in New York, which makes the market firm here. Molasses, rice, sugars and spices are unchanged. Prices current are as follows:

Green Coffees. ₱ lb.		*Sugars.*	
Fancy Rio	24½c	Standard A	10½c
Choice Rio	23½c	Standard B	10½c
Prime Rio	22 c	Granulated	10½c
Good Rio	20 c	Franklin extra C	9½c
Java, Rio	33 c	American extra C	9 c
		Crushed	10½c
Roasted Coffees.		Cut loaf	11½c
Rio, in papers	26 c	Powdered	11 c
Java, in papers	41 c	Confectioners' A	11 c
Java, in bulk	40 c		
Teas.		*Molasses.*	₱ gal.
Young Hyson	50@81 00	Strictly ch'ce N. O.	72c
Gunpowder	60@1 25	Prime	68c
Imperial	50@1 00	Good	65c
Japan	35@1 00	*Syrups.*	
Oolong	35@1 00	Ex. white drips	75c
Fancy	1 00	Sugar drips	65c
Souchong	35@1 00	Lower grades	45@60c
Rice.	₱

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1875.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The publishers of our ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE, in the East, having discontinued its publication, we shall be unable to furnish it to subscribers hereafter. We ask the indulgence of our patrons, in this matter, for the reason that the failure is wholly beyond our control.

THE total value of the exports from Philadelphia for last week amounted to $619,118.

THE imports at New York during the past week were extraordinarily large for this season of the year. They aggregated over $7,000,000.

THE total imports at New York for last week amounted in value to $7,074,697, and the customs receipts for the same period were $3,332,000. The specie shipments for the week aggregated $511,839 56.

THE Internal Revenue receipts for the present month up to and including last Saturday was $8,877,227 71; for the fiscal year, $70,772,332 31. The total receipts for this month, it is estimated, will far exceed those of February, 1874.

THE Supreme Court of the United States has just rendered a decision to the effect that where the creditor of an insolvent surrenders old securities, within proper time, and takes new ones, the latter are valid as the consideration for the surrender of the former.

FROM this time forward until the adjournment of Congress, the greatest vigilance should be exercised by members to protect the Treasury against the raids of the lobby. Thus far, no improper measures have been passed at the solicitation of the latter, but the pressure will now be more tremendous than ever. Watchfulness and firmness are the needs of the hour.

WE ARE glad to observe that the foreign export trade of Boston is looking up considerably with the growing of the year. The exports for January were valued at $3,174,435—the largest amount ever known for a single month, and up to last Saturday the increase over the corresponding period of 1874 amounted to $750,810, certainly an engouraging rise in the thermometer of trade.

THE haughty Southrons who expect to rule the roast in the next House of Representatives, talk with the utmost contempt of the plea that Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri should be treated as Southern State. These States maintained their position in the Union during the war, but were not honestly on either side of the fight. Hence the Confederates call them "puke States," whose position during the war was like that of the church of Laodicea, neither hot nor cold. No Democrat from either is to be allowed to hold office in the next House.

IF THE people need any further proof of the concerted determination of the rebel leaders to place every Southern State in rebel hands, here is one evidence. For Pillow FORREST made a speech at Madison, Tennessee, on the 18th inst., in which he is reported to have said that he "believed there would be another war, and his policy would be to raise the black flag, with the skull and cross-bones on it, and not leave a Republican, white or black, alive in the State." This is something worth thinking of, on the part of those who do not believe that the country is in any peril.

THE New York State Engineer regards the question of steam navigation of the canals as satisfactorily settled in the grand essentials of economy, speed and time. The round trip from Buffalo to Albany and back is made in from fifteen to seventeen days, against thirty-three days of the horse-boats. This reduces the time one-half, thus virtually doubling the capacities of the canal. With regard to expenses, unfeigned surprise is expressed by the Engineer at the small proportion of cost for fuel, which he regards as incredibly low, and as destined to supersede horse power entirely within a comparatively short time. This should be good news for the West.

IN THE tariff debate in the House, last Saturday, Congressman STORM, a Democratic member from the Eleventh district of this State—an important manufacturing region, in which are located some of the largest iron furnaces in the Commonwealth—avowed himself unqualifiedly "in favor of free trade. Mr. STORM is certainly to be commended for his courageous sincerity in thus openly declaring himself in favor of degrading the labor of his constituents to the level of the pauper labor of Europe. What the people who voted for him will have to say concerning the matter is another question. It is likely there will be a different kind of a storm in that district, presently.

A DECISION of considerable importance was rendered by a New York court last Wednesday, the principle involved in which is of general importance. The defendant in the suit resisted the payment of a demand for gas furnished him, on the ground that he was assessed at a higher rate than that used in making the bills of persons residing in districts where the plaintiffs were obliged to compete with another corporation employed in the same business. The decision was in favor of the defendant, judgment being given for the amount of gas consumed at rates corresponding with those charged in the other districts. The case is to be appealed, but the decision ought to be sustained. It is of the utmost importance that all public corporations receiving valuable charter privileges, should be compelled to administer their affairs on a just and equitable basis.

WHEN judges disagree, who shall decide? The other day we noted the fact that the Supreme Court of Illinois had just rendered a decision to the effect, that railroad sleeping car companies cannot be held liable for the value of property stolen from passengers; but on Saturday last, in the Marine Court of New York, in a case involving exactly the same principle, the Court decided that, whilst these companies are not innkeepers, insurers nor transporters, yet they are bound to protect passengers in their sleep, and that, if "no watch is kept, or the watch kept is so insufficient that the midnight prowler can approach and steal, that is an intrusion on the rest and comfort of the passenger, for which the company is liable." This decision holds sleeping car companies responsible for the safety of the property of travelers on their cars, and is directly opposed *to the decision of the Illinois court.* But it seems a good deal more sensible and equitable.

IN NEW JERSEY, too, as in other Democratic States, that party proposes to recognize and establish the principle of legislation for sectarian ends, making the State the patron of purely sectarian institutions, and bestowing upon many special privileges and advantages at the expense of the whole body of taxpayers. A bill is now before the Legislature of that State, to incorporate a "Catholic Protectory," whose objects involve a system of wholesale proselytism, inasmuch as the authority with which it seeks to be clothed embraces "the care, education and reformation of all such children as may be surrendered, entrusted or committed to its charge"—not merely children of Catholic parentage, but *all* children. Almost everywhere where the Democrats have of late obtained advantage, the same set purpose to inflame religious prejudices and provoke sectarian collisions appears to exist. Are they acting in concert? And if so, to what ultimate end? The matter is becoming one of decided public importance.

THURLOW WEED'S latest letter on the political situation will afford but cold comfort to those prophets of disaster and birds of ill-omen who croak that the mission of the Republican party is ended. He is by no means insensible to the defects and shortcomings of the Republican party; but, like all sagacious and inspiring men, he thoroughly discerns the vital fact that it is neither "expedient nor safe, with the existing organizations and proclivities of the Democracy, to intrust that party with supreme power." He also expresses his firm belief in a protective tariff as essential to the national prosperity, and, after a wide range of discussion concerning the measures of national and party policy requisite, in his opinion, to the regaining of our lost ground, arrives at the very natural and legitimate conclusion that it is to the Republican party the country must look for the nomination and election of "a capable, experienced, and inflexibly honest man as our next President." His letter, which is very long, and treats of a great variety of topics, will be certain to be widely read and to attract unusual attention.

THE TIDAL WAVE RETURNING.

The Democratic reaction which set in so furiously, last fall, has been short-lived. We felt sure it was but a passing spasm of popular petulance, and would right itself at the first opportunity.

The opportunity came on Tuesday last, and the people, everywhere, seem to have been eager to prove to the country that the verdict of last fall was a mistake. Philadelphia returns a Republican majority of 12,000 on a total of but 50,000 votes, elects sixteen Republican Magistrates out of twenty-four, returns twenty-two Republicans out of the twenty-nine Select Councilmen, and fifty-five Republicans out of the seventy Common Councilmen, to say nothing of School Directors and Assessors in the same proportion. It is a clean sweep, and indicates a Republican majority in the city of at least 20,000 on its full vote of 150,000. Her Republicans are now confident of giving that majority to HARTRANFT for Governor.

Lancaster city was nearly a tie, last year, and elected ROSENMILLER, Republican, to the Legislature, by a bare majority. It now gives STAUFFER, Republican, for Mayor, 454 majority, and the Republicans carry nearly the entire Councils and School Board. Lancaster was known, in Whig times, as "the only Democratic city in the country," and it remained Democratic until JAMES BUCHANAN departed this life. Since then it has once or twice gone Republican, but has very generally been relied upon confidently to stand by the Democracy. It has now been twice in succession carried by the Republicans, and the huge majority given on Tuesday last, is a fair basis for the confident hope that she will remain permanently Republican hereafter.

Reading is another old Democratic city. It gave a Democratic majority last November of 300, and has only been once in a while captured by our friends. The majority is now three hundred the other way. Mayor EVANS has been triumphantly re-elected, with Republican Councils and Republican School Board to match. It is a glorious victory, and if those who have won it, by standing together manfully, will only stick together hereafter, that city will be permanently redeemed from the reproach of Democratic misrule, and Reading will become a grand Republican oasis in the terrible Democratic desert of Berks.

Harrisburg has also been a close and doubtful city for some time, but its general inclination has been Democratic. It gave a Democratic majority at the special municipal election last year, and elected a Democratic Council; and the defeat in the State, last November, had so disheartened the Harrisburg Republicans that they came up to the work of this February election with fear, doubt and distrust; yet they worked hard, and notwithstanding the bitter cold of the weather, polled 1,950 out of the 3,300 votes cast, electing seven out of nine Select Councilmen, eighteen out of twenty-one Common Councilmen, six out of nine School Directors, all of the city and nearly all of the ward officers. The Democratic nest was completely broken up.

Scranton remains Democratic, unchanged, and Williamsport and Altoona were carried by the Democrats on the liquor issue, and not on political grounds. The other cities of the State continue without marked change from previous municipal elections, but none of them is of so much importance, politically, as the cities we have named. Still, our reports from New Castle, Meadville, Erie, Titusville and Wilkesbarre, are of the most encouraging kind, and show that the Republicans of all those places were wide awake on Tuesday last, and attentive to the maintenance of their local supremacy; while from such county seats as Allentown, Easton, Norristown, West Chester, Lebanon, Pottsville and Tyrone, and from various towns and townships throughout the State, we have returns all showing that the tidal wave of last fall has been effectually turned back in Pennsylvania, and that our noble old State may once more be regarded as in line with her sister Republican States.

The results of the election for Councilmen and ward officers in these cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny also show a great change from last fall. Allegheny was then about equally divided, while nearly every ward in Pittsburgh gave a Democratic majority. It was the vote of Pittsburgh which changed the political character of the Legislature and elected the Democratic State ticket. Instead of that result we are able to make a showing of Republican councils elected in both cities, the majorities being decisive. There are, of course, local mishaps here and there in each; but as a general rule the Republicans carried both cities handsomely and conclusively. The change from last November is like the change from winter temperature to that of balmy spring.

It remains, now, for Connecticut and New Hampshire to follow up this auspicious opening of the campaign of 1875, and by decisive Republican victories contribute to put the country back into safe hands. Nothing would quiet the troubles in Louisiana so quickly as Republican majorities at the next State early elections. The Democratic triumphs last year in Connecticut and New Hampshire revived the fiendishness of the Southern heart, and fired it into overt acts of resistance to the constituted authorities, and the election of EATON as United States Senator from Connecticut, carried the first gleam of hope into the hearts of the cut-throats who have since deluged Mississippi with innocent blood. A Democratic reverse in the same States, now, would bring these fellows to a sudden sense of apprehension, and subdue them to quietness, if not into submission. We commend to their earnest attention the returns from Pennsylvania.

SEVERE WINTERS.

It is the part of human nature to regard the present as essentially different from the past. If the winter is open, we are told, in a lamenting tone, that there are no more old fashioned winters, and that the seasons are perceptibly changing; while if we happen to have a really old fashioned winter, as we are now having, the ear is assailed with fretful complaints about its exceptionally severe character. Everybody, now, is sure that there never has been as hard and severe a winter as the present.

Yet those who can recall the past know that this is not so. The meteorological tables kept at the Pennsylvania Hospital, in Philadelphia, for a century past, with great accuracy and fidelity, prove that, while seasons may vary considerably, in details, in the aggregate they are vastly alike. A given day in February, 1875, may not correspond with the same day in February, 1775, and months may even vary, as compared with each other in different years; but the average of each winter, spring, summer or autumn, in any one year compared with another, is remarkably alike. It is impossible that any two winters should be exactly alike; but the variation is not sufficient to make any winter really exceptional.

The winters of 1831 and 1832, in this region, set in as early as November, and continued with but little variation until the middle of February. The rivers were, we are informed, frozen over in November, 1830, and remained so until the spring thaw set in. They were also frozen over in November or December, 1831, and remained frozen up until the middle of February, 1832. In both these winters the ice on our rivers formed a natural bridge, and teams crossed on the ice, regularly and steadily. Nearly all the coal for this city was then hauled in teams over the ice. The great "Pumpkin flood," of 1832, was caused by the rapid melting of the snow and ice that had accumulated during the long and severe winter, which were so great in quantity as to make that the highest flood of which we have any record.

The winter of 1835 was also a very severe one, and if we have fewer accounts of the low state of the thermometer in such winters, it was because thermometers were then very rare, and scarcely any note was made of the actual degree of cold then prevailing. We have no doubt, if the record *had* been kept, the winters of 1831, 1832 and 1835 would be found to be as cold as the winter of 1875.

To say nothing of intervening years, the winter of 1856 was one within the memory of a great many now living. A deep snow fell on Christmas day, 1855, which was followed by severe and steady cold, and it remained cold, without change, until the following March. The rivers froze over, solid, and were again used as a bridge. The Republican National Convention, which organized the Republican party, met here, in Lafayette Hall, on the 22d day of February, 1856, and the rivers were, on that day, a solid mass of ice, over which many of the delegates to that convention passed on foot as securely as if on land; and it was some time after that when the rivers broke up.

It may well be that the thermometer did not, during all that winter, go down to 25 degrees below zero, as it did here on the 15th inst.; but the average degree of cold was undoubtedly equal to that which has prevailed here this season.

The cold waves which have twice swept over the entire West, this winter, are not usual to this latitude, and in that respect the season is partly exceptional; but they are not the first that have been experienced. It is only within a few years that science has made known the existence of cold waves, starting in the far West and sweeping over the entire country; but cold spells, in which the thermometer fell from 12 to 30 degrees below zero have occurred frequently. The minds of average observers do not charge themselves with the recollection of such things, and hence they are mainly forgotten, and people are led, without any point of comparison before them, to conclude that there never was so hard a winter as this; yet it will be found, upon examination, that there not only *have* been such winters, before, but plenty of them.

A MOST suggestive and valuable tract for the times is the report which, at the request of the New York State Board of Charities, Dr. ANDERSON, President of Rochester University, a clear and profound thinker on all practical social questions, has just prepared for presentation to the Legislature of that State. The New York *Evening Mail* gives an exceedingly interesting summary of the comprehensive manner in which the author goes over the whole ground of pauperism. Starting out with some general observations on the main question, President ANDERSON discusses the two branches of relief for paupers, indoor and out-door. Where relief is furnished in houses set apart for the care of paupers, he urges that work should be exacted up to the full measure of the recipient's ability to perform any. Even the weak-minded, infirm and insane, should be given something, however light, to do; both on social and sanitary grounds. The inmates of our poorhouses will always be healthier and happier when employed than when idle, and productive labor is the best diversion for any person sane or insane. When it comes to the able-bodied pauper who voluntarily becomes such, he should be compelled by the authorities to earn his own living, since every such person who is supported by taxation without rendering any return is morally injured. Consequently, the writer maintains that a provision ought to be made by law which shall give to county and city authorities full power to compel such persons to earn the whole or part of their own support. Permitting them to eat the bread of idleness, be pithily suggests, tends to demoralize the paupers, while at the same time it defrauds society. The policy of the law should be to treat as criminals those who levy upon the public for support, while able to earn their own living. In fact they form the class from which the criminals proper are recruited, and it is hardly possible to define the difference between the two.

With reference to tramps and street beggars the report holds that a sharp distinction should be made between those who have become such by their own criminal choice, and those who have become paupers through no fault of their own. Dr. ANDERSON says:

"We believe the time has already arrived when it is imperatively necessary to revise and make more stringent our laws in their application to vagrants and professional beggars. As it is, many persons fear to refuse the demands of tramps and beggars for aid, least they may subject themselves to the dangers of burglary or arson. The tramps understand very well the power secured to them by this condition of things, especially over unprotected women and children living in districts without a local police. The State should protect the industrious citizens against the exactions of this class. Severe, and even harsh laws, providing for summary process of arrest and punishment would be fully justified by an intelligent public opinion, and the direct and indirect saving to the State which such laws would secure would be very great."

Of course, in spite of the dangers and abuse of out-door relief of paupers, it seems to be a necessary element in the exercise of benevolence and duty enjoined by religion and morality. But, while the duty is generally admitted, it is by no means so well understood that to give wisely is just as much matter of duty as it is to give at all. The report urges popular education in foresight, economy and industry; favors the general establishment of central bureaus for securing correspondence and concerted action among charitable institutions; demands legislative enactments authorizing the arrest of tramps and vagrants, sufficient and digest of our well phrased but poorly understood laws on vagrancy and pauperism. A pertinent suggestion of the report is one which charges much of our crime and pauperism upon the kind of dwellings into which the poor of our cities are crowded, and the argument is forcibly presented that an improved class of homes for the poor would not only effectively aid in diminishing individual suffering, but also reduce the activity of one of the recognized causes of pauperism.

THE statistical atlas of the United States, based on the results of the last census, now nearly ready, is one of the most valuable and important works yet issued by the Government, if, indeed, it is not the most important of any ever published by the authority of Congress. The atlas is divided into three parts, each of which is copiously illustrated by colored plates and special figures, presenting clearly to the eye all the important results of the census. The first part embraces the physical features of the country; the second, population, including the social and industrial statistics; and the third is confined to vital statistics. In the map showing the distribution of woodlands within the territory of the United States, the very important question of the disappearance of timber is presented with startling effect. The heavily-wooded regions of Northern Maine, the Adirondack region, the pine region of the Catolinas, of Southern Georgia, the everglades of Florida, the pine region about Lake Superior, and those in the region along the northern portions of the Rocky Mountains, in Oregon and its adjacent coast-line, together with some patches along the Allegheny chain, stand out clearly to the eye as the only great forest regions of the country. There are a few small timber patches in Northern Ohio, in Western Tennessee, Western New York, and Western Pennsylvania, but the map speaks at once to all who examine it of the rapid disappearance of our timber from all the earlier settled States. The map of our coal fields, however, presents, in the vast extent of their areas, a very pleasant contrast to the map setting forth the scarcity of timber. Other exceedingly interesting charts are those showing the distribution and density of the colored population of the country, and its proportion to the aggregate population. The map of foreign parentage, also, presents most interesting features. Comparatively few traces of such population appear in the South, except about the cities, and while the reason is well understood, the map of their distribution shows much more clearly than the statement of the reasons could, how effectually this industrious population is turned from the regions of former slave labor. Similar maps and charts, prepared with extreme care, show the growth and density of the general population, the distribution of its various elements, the meteorological features of the different parts of the country, the amount of rainfall for various sections, the frequency of storm centers, the prevalence of storms, the movements of the air currents, the various characteristics of our river systems, the relative elevation of the various sections of the country above the sea—charts showing the amount of public indebtedness and taxation per capita, contracted or imposed by State, county or municipal authority—with numerous other maps and illustrations, each of which in itself affords a study, and helps to set forth with wonderful accuracy and clearness the various elements which enter into a thorough knowledge of our land. Whatever else the present Congress may do or leave undone during the few remaining days of its existence, it ought to make the most liberal appropriation consistent with the present condition of the Treasury, in order to bring this valuable work within the reach of schools and all writers and students throughout the country.

AMONG the ancient Jewish maxims on popular education are such pithy apothegms as these: "The world is only saved by the breath of the school children;" "Even for the rebuilding of the temple, the schools must not be interrupted;" "Study is more meritorious than sacrifices;" "A scholar is greater than a prophet;" "Jerusalem was destroyed because the instruction of youth was neglected." The statistics regarding the establishment of schools in the Southern States afford a most striking illustration alike of the truth of these maxims and of the immeasurable superiority of the Republican party over the Democratic party as an agency for the intellectual and moral elevation and improvement of the human race. In Arkansas, where, in thirty-five years the Democrats opened twenty-five sickly schools, none of them free, the Republicans in six years built an agricultural college, established deaf-mute and blind asylums, built 1,292 public schools and nearly 3,000 free schools, and put 20,000 children into them annually. Georgia had not a single free school before the war, but under its Republican *regime* 816 such schools were established, with an attendance of 40,000 pupils. Upon the return of the Democracy to power these schools immediately began to languish, and they now talk of abolishing them altogether, being, according to a correspondent of the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, "heartily sick and disgusted with footing the bills to educate the negro." In Tennessee, under Republican rule, nearly 4,000 schools were established within a period of less than two years, while within a year after the State relapsed into Democracy this number had dwindled down to 478. In one county of that State, in which, in 1869, there were forty-six white and eight colored schools, three years later there remained but three. While the Republicans governed Texas, they gave the State 1,921 schools, in which 84,000 scholars were taught. A year ago the number of schools had diminished to 85, and of pupils to 2,913, and both are steadily growing less and less. Mississippi had no free schools until the close of the war, but within three years thereafter the Republicans organized over 3,000 of them. So with Alabama, and so with other Southern States; in them all, Democracy means popular ignorance and darkness, and Republicanism popular intelligence and light. Ten years hence, were the Democratic party to remain in power in the nation during that time, there would not be a solitary free school remaining in the whole South, to mark where the pillars of progress had once stood.

INJURIES by fire, caused by sparks from railroad engines, are very frequent, and especially, in this State, in long lines of forest, where the dry leaves take fire readily. The fires spread rapidly and carry wide-spread destruction before them. An act was proposed in the Legislature, last session, to compel the railroad companies to attach spark-arresters to their locomotives, so as, in some measure, to remove the cause of these frequent and destructive fires; but the railroad companies resisted it, as a heavy tax upon them for the benefit of patentees who have numerous costly inventions for arresting sparks, and the bill did not pass.

It seems, however, that even spark-arresters are not a preventive. A man named HENDRICKSON has recovered $2,140 from the Reading Railroad Company for the loss of a barn and its contents in Columbia county, which took fire from the sparks of a locomotive. The defense was that the railroad used the most improved modern appliances for arresting sparks, that the train was not run above schedule rates, and that the engineer in charge was competent and careful; still, the sparks escaped, the barn was burned, and the railroad company pays the damage. It seems rather strange, to the uninitiated, that no sufficient remedy has yet been discovered against this danger. When the locomotive is separated from Columbia to Philadelphia, as a part of its main line of transportation, claims against it for property along the road destroyed by sparks from the engines were frequent, every winter, at Harrisburg; and it would seem that but little progress, in preventing such results, has been made from that day to this. The accidents are not now so frequent, it is true; but that is because wood was then used for fuel, exclusively, whereas coal, only, is now used.

THE rapidity of the development of the railroad progress of Russia is of an extraordinary character. At the end of 1866 only 2,055 miles were in operation in that country. During the two following years about 700 miles of new railroad were constructed, and on the 1st of January, 1870, the total mileage was reported officially at 4,700 miles, was increased to nearly 10,000 at the end of 1873, and 12,150 miles at the end of 1874. The total mileage is now six times as great as in 1866. The roads are becoming more self-supporting in consequence of the development of traffic, which never fails to attend the enlargement of facilities for travel and transportation. This rapid extension of the railroad system of that empire, particularly the improved transportation facilities in the southern part of it, explains, in the opinion of the Boston *Commercial Bulletin*, the cause of the failure of the foreigners in hoarding their wheat soon after the crop year began, to force upon the world to pay the prices which they demanded, the Odessa merchants being enabled to get their products to London and Liverpool earlier than had ever before been the case, and to take possession of the market upon the cessation of receipts from this country. This is a new factor in the European food supply problem.

THAT address of the Democratic members of Congress from the Southern States to the people of that section, counseling justice to the colored race and profound good behaviour throughout the South, simply means that they are fearful lest the wild animals should break loose too soon. NAST's cartoon in *Harper's Weekly*, in which JOHN YOUNG BROWN, of Kentucky, appears as a furious young tiger in a rampant attitude about to spring upon BEN. BUTLER, who stands beneath his fore paws holding a scroll upon which is inscribed, "Very Civil Rights in the House of Representatives," while FERNANDO WOOD, SUNSET COX, SAM. RANDALL and others have hold of the infuriated beast by the tail, and are sweating and tugging at him to restrain him from devouring his prey, and Speaker BLAINE, pounding upon his desk with his gavel, cries out in consternation, "Gentlemen, you must not let your wild animals loose till the next session," tells the whole story, and the only question is simply an acknowledgment of its prophetic character as well as its satirical power and force.

PERSONAL.

M. de Brazza, who has served as Lieutenant in the French navy, is about to undertake a voyage into Central Africa, in continuation of the explorations of the late Dr. Livingstone.

Catacazy, who was at one time the Russian Ambassador at Washington, is now in Mexico, engaged in some business or another that, it is said, will soon make him a millionaire.

Sarah Jones, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, recently received an offer of marriage and said "no," supposing her lover would press his suit. He didn't, however, but coolly walked off home, and the next day a letter came to him from the maiden saying that since he was "so very determined" she would marry him. Quick wit, wasn't it?

Feminine precocity. Robenia Gratz, a girl of very modest appearance, about sixteen years old and of a good family, was brought up in the Boston Municipal Court, the other day, charged with raising a certificate of stock in the Michigan Central Railroad from one share to ninety, the original value being $68 and the pretended value $4,080, and obtaining $2,000 on it.

The *Memorial Diplomatique* says the Egyptian International Appellate Court will consist of Mr. Scott, as the representative of England; Herr Lapenna, of Austria; Signor Glaccone, of Italy; Herr Scaroqua, of Germany; M. Cumassy, of Russia; Baron Lagerfelt, of Sweden; M. Devos, of Belgium, and Dr. Baringer, of the United States. The French member will not be appointed till the convention has been ratified by the Assembly.

The Indianapolis *Journal* publishes this as a true story: "Mr. L. Barr, an employee of one of the rolling mills, is said to be one of the most powerful men west of the Alleghenies. He often picks up a couple of rails, weighing 1,120 pounds, for small wagers, and can handle a 560-pound rail easier than most men can handle a shovel and kindling wood. He is credited with having lifted 1,475 pounds not long since. This modern Samson wears his hair short, is six feet in height, and magnificently proportioned."

A German named Thachtman, residing at St. Louis, is the victim of a singular form of insanity. The playing of music excites him to frenzy, and at certain times he expresses a desire to murder the performing musician. Another phase of his insanity is his constant belief that he is upon the verge of starvation. Thachtman was formerly employed as an attendant on the California philanthropist, Mr. James Lick, a part of his duties being to rub him well with bare hands, and to a loss of vital forces during the process the misfortune is attributed.

And the Spirit said, "write." Fifteen and a half million postal cards have been shipped from Springfield, Massachusetts, during the first half of the present quarter.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR

The question is not: Art thou
In the nobility?
This is the question: Is there
Nobility in thee?

"Etherial mildness" is beginning to thaw out a little.

The prevailing destitution in New York is greater than for the last thirty years.

Fisk's New York Grand Opera House is to be soon transformed into a fashionable hotel.

Houston, Texas, is preparing to be astonished by a "prismoidal" railway with but one rail.

English manufacturers say they look for a steady, if not a remunerative trade during the present year.

Two more furnaces have just been started at the Burden iron works, Troy, and others will start soon.

In various Southern cities the price of gas is so high that the citizens are returning to the use of coal oil.

Iowa Allen's gas works at Des Moines followed the example of his Chicago bank, the other day, and blew up.

New York city, which has often witnessed a corner in watered stocks, is now experiencing a corner in water.

A movement is on foot to obtain small pensions for the aged Iowa warriors who served in the Blackhawk war.

A wickered innovation—the proposition to introduce basket-work coffins to facilitate decomposition of the dead.

Where is Kentucky Brown? He hasn't ventured to "prevaricate" on the floor of the House for three whole weeks past.

Washington dispatches foreshadow another new political departure. Go ahead, gentlemen, but remember Cincinnati.

Rev. Dr. Winters, of Dayton, Ohio, is said to have married summer in the neighborhood of eight thousand people.

Experiments with petroleum as fuel for locomotives have lately been made in Canada, with results every way satisfactory.

The Chicago system of grain inspection is to be extended to all the cities of Illinois. But not the roguery of it, we hope.

Although Hier is the name of the Republican Mayor-elect of Syracuse, New York, it is the Democrats who have gone up.

Senator-elect Randolph, of New Jersey, has just patented a stitching machine. One of the best ditch plows in use is his invention.

Chicago is going to have a botanical garden in her South Park, wherein to display the floral wealth and capacity of the Northwest.

Notwithstanding the hot water in which the Tilton-Beecher crowd are scalding, half the fire hydrants in Brooklyn are frozen.

That proposition for the organization of a National Alumni association to be instituted in Philadelphia in June, 1876, is an excellent one.

Notwithstanding all the expansive intellectuality of Massachusetts, twenty per cent. of its children are growing up in a state of ignorance.

One thousand pills were stolen from a rural New York physician a few days ago. This theft will assuredly carry with it its own punishment.

Winter thoroughly relaxed his grip yesterday. We hope it was not merely for the purpose of spitting on his hands and getting a fresh hold.

Crypto-Catholic is the expressive word used in Germany to designate one who is by profession a Protestant, but in heart a Roman Catholic.

Death rides on the Northern blasts this winter. There has been a greater mortality by pneumonia the past four months than was ever known before.

People in the Eastern States are beginning to dread a mighty freshet when the ice goes out. The accumulation of ice in the streams is simply unprecedented.

The seals have, in many instances, become disgusted with the climate of the North, and sought a more congenial latitude in the neighborhood of the New York coast.

New York proposes to deepen the Erie canal and sell the laterals. The former alone of all the canals pays the cost of its maintenance and repair, and leaves a surplus.

England is shortly to have a college for women, holding the same relation to their higher education as the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge do to the education of men.

And now Boston is bewailing the personal extravagances of its "Reform" city councils, to the tune of some $50,000 for carriages, "refreshments," etc., during last year.

The latest reports from the Indian frontier state that the troublesome tribes are reduced to such a condition that their taking the field again is an unlikely occurrence.

A Troy manufacturer advertises "musical steam whistles." Heaven bless and keep him, if he proposes to abolish the diabolical discord of the old style steam whistles.

Integrity. A Baltimore tradesman who settled with his creditors at forty cents on a dollar, thirteen years ago, went to Boston the other day and paid up the remaining sixty per cent. due.

"San Francisco's lager-rythm is $9,419,200. That is to say, she took that many drinks of it last year."—*Cincinnati Times.*

The perpetrator of this deserves to be brought to his bier.

That absurd story that Senator Stewart was negotiating for the purchase of Fisk's Grand Opera House, arose from the fact that another person of a similar name asked the agent some questions in relation to the property being for sale.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The boiler fires at the Ferndale rolling mill, Allentown, were stated last week, and it is probable that the mill will resume operations shortly.

It is rumored that the new furnace of the Glamorgan Iron Company, in Mifflin county, is to be blown in about April 1st, and some hands will be put to work on the 1st of March.

The pay rolls of the blast furnaces, rolling mills and ore mines in Lancaster county, when in operation, amounts to $60,000 per month. About one-half the works are in operation now.

The Lebanon Manufacturing Company have an order for 400 four-wheeled coal cars from Nova Scotia, to be finished in five weeks; also, a contract to furnish 200 hand pumps, for a Palmyra firm, and a quantity of corn shellers.

The Shenango and Allegheny Railroad company and the Mercer Mining and Manufacturing Company have assumed control of their property under a new organization disconnected with the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad system.

Over in Bedford county the taking out of ties for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has furnished employment during the winter, thus far, to a large number of persons. Fortunately the excellent sledding has enabled them to haul their ties to the point of delivery, violating this provision, which is illegal. By proper legal process they can be released immediately, and if the old law of 1843 is binding, in view of the fact that an illegal cancellation can not repeal a legal and sound law, then these men can be released, for the law of 1843 permits a marriage between a white and one-half negro. A bill is to be introduced in the Legislature immediately to legalize all marriages since 1852.

Quite a Little Grab.

Augustine R. McDonald, a resident of Louisville, claiming to be a British subject, has come into a nice little plum through an award of the British and American mixed commission, amounting to $197,000. He claimed, originally, $2,000,500 for cotton burned by Federal troops during the war of the rebellion, but was granted the sum named above. The testimony in Augustine R.'s case covered 6,000 printed pages, so that it will be seen that he had quite a struggle to get his reward. The history of the case is about thus: During the war McDonald was a resident of Cincinnati. Obtaining leave to go through the lines into the South, he got possession of a lot of cotton, which he was careful to place under the protection of the British flag. General Osborne came along and ordered the cotton to be burned, despite the protestations of McDonald, who claimed to be a subject of Great Britain, and entitled to protection from any molestation whatever. On the 19th day of December, 1868, McDonald filed a petition in bankruptcy in the United States District Court of Cincinnati, in which he struck out the affidavit of citizenship of the city. Among the assets there was a claim against General Osborne for burning seven or eight thousand bales of cotton, which was placed in the schedule as worthless. In May, March, 1869, McDonald received a discharge from his debts. All of his accounts, including his claim for the burned cotton, were sold by his assignee for the small sum of twenty dollars. When the award was made last summer, it was claimed by McDonald's creditors that there was an informality in the sale of his accounts, and they determined to have the same, it seems, set aside. A friend of McDonald's, fortunately, had purchased his accounts and assigned them back to him, and he has thus received the money with the interest on it.

STATE NEWS.

Another national bank is talked of in Towanda.

Scarlet fever and diphtheria are quite prevalent in Corry.

The Catholic fair in Harrisburg gathered $4,800 into the church fund.

Edward Spargur, aged ninety-two years, died in Wellsville, recently.

A York county man lunched on a neighbor's finger, the other day.

The Catholics of Corry are building a brick church at a cost of $5,000.

The debt of Cameron county is only $8,000, and is fast diminishing.

Robert Donold, a butcher, died suddenly in Titusville, on Wednesday, of apoplexy.

Petroleum Center has a scandal case in which the damages are set down at $4,000.

There have recently been sixty cases of small-pox in Heidelberg township, Lebanon county.

Washington's punch-ladle is to be exhibited at the Centennial. What *will* the temperance folk say?

An alligator was received by mail at Reading on Saturday. It was a male alligator, of course.

Henry G. Freeman, Esq., the oldest but one of the Philadelphia bar, died on Sunday, aged eighty-six years.

There were three hundred and seventy-three deaths in Philadelphia, last week—seventy-five from lung diseases.

The workmen on the new State arsenal, at Harrisburg, had to suspend operations because of the intensely cold weather.

The Chester county court refused to grant a charter incorporating the village of Penningtonville into the "Borough of Atglen."

Mr. Jacob Buskirk is perhaps the oldest man in Berks county. He lives in Rockland township, and is in the ninety-ninth year of his age.

Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, now has an observatory, including a valuable telescope presented by John E. Graeff, of Philadelphia.

Two men who were caught applauding the verdict of a jury, in Bradford county, were fined by his Honor Judge Morrow five dollars each.

Stauffer & Johnson, of Philadelphia, whose failure was noted last week, have settled with their creditors by paying twenty-five per cent.

The valuable library of Hon. C. L. Ward, of Towanda, has been donated by his heirs to Lafayette College at Easton. It contains 13,000 volumes.

Erie county sends four men to the penitentiary and a boy to the Reform School for offenses of which they were convicted at the recent Criminal Court.

Four geese were frozen to death in Erie, the other night. But then the frugal family to whom they belonged had been accumulating feathers for a new pillow.

A little child of John G. Chaplin, of Huntingdon, was found dead in its bed on Thursday morning last. The child was in apparent perfect health when it was put to bed.

Two farmers drove up to Schurman's mill, in South Allentown, with a lot of grain in their sleigh, and both were frozen so cold that they had to be lifted from the sleigh and carried into the mill.

The postmaster at Kane has been held in $1,000 bail for trial before the United States Court at Erie, July next, on charge of opening letters intended for other people.

The Philadelphia *Age* newspaper has been purchased by an association of gentlemen, who take possession on the 15th of March, and will issue a two cent daily called *The Times.* The editorial department will be under the charge of Colonel A. K. McClure, and Frank McLaughlin, Esq., will be business manager.

The wife of Lewis Gansner, of Norristown committed suicide on Friday. By standing on a chair she had tied one end of a rope to one of the joists in the cellar of her home. After placing the noose around her neck she had evidently jumped from the chair. Of late she has been unusually melancholy, she having been sick for some time.

An undertaker in Washington township, Berks county, nine years ago made a coffin for a man who had formerly resided in that township, but who now lives in Reading. The casket occupies a place unoccupied, and in the undertaker's sleeping apartment—ready for occupancy whenever the angel of death visits him.

The Schuylkill river is completely closed by ice throughout its entire length. When the spring freshets come there is likely to be much damage in consequence. The Lehigh, Delaware and Susquehanna rivers are also covered with thick coatings of ice. Delaware Bay is kept partially open, but the navigation is attended with great danger, and several vessels have been badly broken up. All the Atlantic harbors, from Baltimore north, are as good as closed by the long cold snap.

One would have hoped that the potato bugs would have been completely frozen out and exterminated by the extreme cold weather of the last eight weeks, but this appears not to be the case. A Chester county farmer informs the West Chester *Republican*, that he has on several occasions this winter found these bugs lying dormant under ground or beneath shelter, and that on being warmed up they all show signs of active life. It would appear from this that we are to have another attack of the enemy next season.

A case reported from Scranton is wanting in certain circumstantial details which might allay any suspicion of its truth, but, true or false, is sufficiently suggestive to warrant mention. At a seance recently held one sitter received a message from "the blue beyond" to the effect that he would certainly die upon a certain day, naming it, and that it would be but an act of prudence for him to secure a policy of insurance upon his life. This he did in the sum of $10,000, and, at the appointed time, died according to programme. When the widow applied to the insurance company for payment of the policy it was refused, the company alleging that the party had committed moral suicide, that is, died because he thought it was expected that he should. The courts will have to decide.

The Illegality of All Marriages Since 1852.

The good wives and husbands of Indiana will be dumbfounded when they learn that the marriage-law of 1852 (under which all matrimonial contracts have been made since that date) is unconstitutional, null and void, and, consequently, all marriages under that law are illegal. This is a good-send for ministers and justices of the peace, if all the marriages have to be performed again, and in a legal manner. There will be a lively ransacking of the statutes by lawyers and a big scare generally. It is no sensational matter, but sober, honest truth. The discovery of the illegality of the law was made by T. J. Trussler and O. N. Eddy, clerks employed in the Secretary of State's office. Article four of the Constitution, on the legislative branch of the government, provides that all laws shall beg